



Elfun Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2011

ELFUN OF THE YEAR

by Carl Chermak

At the Annual Holiday Party, the Syracuse Elfun Chapter announced Dick Enright as its 2010 Elfun of the Year.

Dick has held many leadership positions in the Syracuse Chapter, including Treasurer (1987-1988), Investment Representative (1994-2008), Vice Chairman (2008-2009) and is currently our Senior Representative. Dick has chaired the annual Holiday Party for many years and has participated in numerous volunteer activities such as bell ringing for the Salvation Army, answering phones for the WCNY Telethons and swinging a hammer at many of our construction projects.

Outside of GE, Dick has been active in the Boy Scouts serving as Hiawatha Council District Commissioner as well as a member of Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack committees. Dick is a proud and active veteran. He serves as a member of several Veterans' Associations including the Tin Can Soldiers (Destroyer Veterans) and USS Fred T Berry DD/DDE 858 Reunion committee and has run its "Ship Store" for clothing items and reunion memorabilia.

In recognition of Dick as Syracuse Elfun of the Year, Roland Robb, Chapter Chairman, presented Dick with a plaque at the Holiday Party.

Congratulations to Dick. We appreciate all that you do for the Chapter!

ELFUN LEADERSHIP TEAM 2010-2011

Chairman	Roland Robb	637-5251
Vice Chairman	Art Toll	415-3259
Treasurer	Don MacLaughlin	652-5792
Secretary	Al Roger	457-1142
Database Manager	Bob Ruth	451-0685
Skaneateles Rep.	George Fay	246-1045
Volunteer Coordinator	& Construction Projects	
	Marv Hahn	699-2621
Social Events	Cindy Chermak	637-0380
Seniors Rep.	Dick Enright	457-1364
Community Liaison	Pete Scalzo	457-0598
Past Chairman	Nick Vaccaro	457-3632
GE Volunteers Rep.	Carl Chermak	452-7260
Newsletter Editor	Steve Auyer	451-7359
		n2tkx@arrl.net
Communications	Rudy Benfey	652-9790

All phone numbers are in area code 315

IN MEMORIAM

We have received word of the deaths of the following senior members: Joseph Porcello; Edward Schultz; Charles Fehlau; Frank Addabbo; Clyde Skaggs; Norman Hallquist; and Francis "Fritz" Greetham.

DRUG QUIZ PLAYOFFS

by Pete Scalzo

We have always provided timekeepers and scorekeepers for the RiteAid Drug Quiz Program. This year's schedule is:

- Onondaga County Playoffs at Driver's Village, Tuesday, March 24th, 5-8pm (4 more volunteers required).
- NYS Semi-Finals at the Marley Center, Wednesday, April 6th, morning session 9-noon, afternoon session 1-4pm (4 more volunteers required at each session).
- Finals at the DoubleTree in Syracuse, Monday, May 16th, 8am-4pm (we already have this covered).

If anyone is interested in the March 24th and April 6th events, please call me at 457-0598, after 4pm please. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

HOPE HONORS - MARVIN HAHN

Marv started volunteering at the Butterfly Garden of HOPE in 2002. At that time most of the lights in the garden were not working. Two different electricians couldn't fix the lights. Marv, a volunteer with the GE Elfuns, located the panel box under the gazebo and without hesitation crawled under the gazebo to get to it. Since that infamous venture, Marv has built and installed a new panel box on the gazebo, rewired all the garden lights, was responsible for The Elfuns funding and building a new storage shed at the garden and at HOPE's Center. This summer he built a double display case for the information board. Marv, along with the Elfuns annually cleans and stains the garden benches. He truly is the Butterfly Garden's personal angel.



SOCIAL EVENTS

by Cindy Chermak

Our first 2011 social event is a combined Syracuse Symphony Stained Glass Concert and Dinner at Coleman's on May 1st:

Let's open our spring social season with some fireworks. The Syracuse Symphony Orchestra will present Austro-German: Royal Fireworks Music at the Stained Glass Concert at 4:00 PM on Sunday, May 1. Daniel Hege will conduct selections including Handel's Overture to the Royal Fireworks Music and Haydn's Mass in D Minor (The Lord Nelson Mass). As an added bonus, we'll have the opportunity to hear our own Elfuns Society members Bob Ruth, Dave Fulmer and Don Priebe perform as the Syracuse University Oratorio Society joins the Symphony. The Stained Glass Series is no misnomer, as the Symphony schedules these concerts in the late afternoon when the sun streams through the beautiful windows at Most Holy Rosary. This concert will be a feast for the eyes and the ears.



Following the concert we'll take a short drive to Coleman's Irish Pub for a light dinner. Our menu choices feature some of Coleman's signature dishes including the house specialty Guinness Beef Stew, Chicken Pub Pie with fresh carrots and garden peas, or crab salad. Dinner includes soup du jour, roll and butter, coffee or tea and dessert. If we are lucky we'll have their delicious potato-leek soup, and we'll cap the meal with Bailey's Irish Mousse.

The cost of the event is \$25 per person for dues-paying Elfuns and spouses. Please be aware that this event involves climbing stairs both at the concert and at Coleman's. See the enclosed flyer and make your reservation. Include a SASE as we will mail your tickets to your home prior to the concert. Let's hope for a sunny afternoon and a striking combination of fireworks and stained glass on May 1.

Future Event - We are investigating a road trip to Utica for later in the spring. The Utica Elfuns have been heavily involved in the Utica Children's Museum and we are considering a trip to view their work along with a tour and lunch at the Saranac Brewery. Watch for details in an upcoming newsletter.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Rudy Benfey for his contribution as our newsletter editor. Our newsletter regularly reaches Elfuns in over 20 states, and is the primary link to the chapter for much of our membership. It is a testament to Rudy's communication skills that our chapter, though widely scattered, is still vibrant and active. Rudy certainly kept me on my toes, making certain that I had timely and relevant submissions! And welcome to Steve - I hope you keep me on my toes as well.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by Roland Robb

As you read this, we will be almost half way through the winter season and the daylight hours are expanding at the rate of 2/3 minutes a day and will be in the 2nd month of our new year. I wish everybody a Happy & Prosperous New Year and I would like to thank all those who participated in volunteering your efforts in supporting our local community.

We finished out 2010 in our usual grand manner with our Dec Holiday Party at Lake Shore Yacht & Country Club. As in the past, the event was a great success and was attended by some 105 people. Dick Enright put everything together including having his wife Donna again make all the table decorations. Unfortunately, Donna was ill the night of the party and did not attend and therefore could not see all the decorations set up on the tables. We do appreciate all the skill and effort she put into creating the decorations and were disappointed that she could not attend. I am sure that she gave Dick very good instructions on how to display everything. Thanks Dick & Donna for a wonderful evening.

The new year, 2011, we expect to be as busy as last year. We may have an event in March (not firm yet) and we have firmed up the date for the annual Senior Lunch which will be May 19th at LeMoyne Manor. Other details will follow as we develop our schedule.

GIFT MATCHING

by Rudy Benfey

A New Detail for Food & Shelter Charities - To help food & shelter charities with their cash flow, the GE Foundation is sending out their gift-match checks by the 15th of each month for the first four months of 2011. So the sooner you make and register your donation, the sooner the organization will receive the check from GE.

All donations made in 2010 must be registered by April 15, 2011 to obtain the match. The gift match checks for all other organizations are mailed out quarterly, in May, August, November and February. (To get your donations matched in May, it must be made, registered and confirmed by the donee by March 31.)

Donations of \$25 or more made to virtually all not-for-profit (501(c)3) organizations, as well as to public and private schools and colleges, will be matched. The Foundation does not match gifts made to churches and the United Way. (GE supports the UW in other ways.) GE employees, retirees and surviving spouses are eligible to have their donations matched. To obtain the match for the recipient of your donation you must register the gift either by calling 1-800-305-0669, or by going on-line at gefoundation.com/matching_gifts. Questions? Call Rudy Benfey - 652-9790 or Cyber-grants at 1-800-305-0669.

FROM THE EDITOR

by Steve Auyer

When we printed the November newsletter we experimented with printing it in color - and some of you received the "experimental" color copies. However the printing method still involved printing a master copy at my house, taking that to the GE office and running it through a scanner to get an image file that could be printed and we were not happy with the results. We subsequently learned how to create a file that could be directly sent to the printer - we're using that technique this time and you should notice a significant improvement in quality.

At the same time we're investigating converting the newsletter to a PDF file and sending that out by e-mail. That has the benefit to you of getting the newsletter to you several weeks earlier and having it with higher resolution color photos. The other plus is that it reduces the workload on the "Folding & Stuffing" Team that assembles the newsletter and prepares it for mailing.

However, of the ~700 members of the chapter, we only have e-mail addresses for about 250 in our database. About a month ago we sent these 250 a PDF copy of the November newsletter and asked whether they would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail in the future. Of the ~140 responses, all but one were "yes." So this month, those 140 will receive both a PDF by e-mail AND a hard copy. For the May and later newsletters they will receive ONLY the electronic copy.

If you were one of those who did not receive the e-mail because we do not have your address, you can request that you receive your newsletter by e-mail by sending a request to me at n2tkx@arri.net

And even for those who elect to receive the newsletter by e-mail, you can revert to a hard copy at any time.

SENIOR LUNCHEON

by Dick Enright

We are excited to announce that the guest speaker for our May 19th Senior Luncheon will be Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney. Joanie will open with a short presentation focused on current county issues followed by a Q&A Session.

With the current property tax increases, pay raises, officials receiving retirement benefits while working and growth problems, it should prove to be an interesting and informative session.

The luncheon will be held at the Lemoyne Manor on Old Liverpool Road near Electronics Parkway. Additional details will be included in a flyer and in our May newsletter. Save the date - this will be a great event.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

by Marv Hahn

After a very busy year the GE Elfuns Volunteers might have a quiet winter. In mid November we installed the holiday lights at the Butterfly Garden of Hope on Onondaga Lake Parkway. They were lit nightly throughout the period the Lights On The Lake were in operation on Onondaga Lake Park. In their monthly newsletter, HOPE FOR BEREAVED included a thanks to the GE Elfuns for installing and maintaining the holiday lights at the Butterfly Garden.

The GE Volunteers have several possible tasks developing for the spring outdoor weather. In the meantime the volunteers will enjoy the winter conditions.

ELFUN HOLIDAY PARTY

by Dick Enright

Our annual Elfuns Holiday Party was held on Saturday December 12th at the Lakeshore Yacht and Country Club. More than one hundred Elfuns and guests were present to enjoy the fine dinner and dancing.

An excellent dinner was prepared by Karen's Catering Service which included an array of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres including a flaming shrimp station. Following dinner a large selection of cakes were served for dessert.

Entertainment by the band Smokin' provided background music during the cocktail hour and dance music after dinner. Vocals were sung by Janice Wilson with the accompaniment of the band.

Beautiful table decorations were provided by Donna Enright.

I was awarded the great honor of being named Elfuns of the Year and a donation in my name was made to Francis House.

Nick Vaccaro was recognized for his selection by the national Elfuns Board of Directors as the Global Elfuns of the Year.

The 2011 Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 3rd, at the Lakeshore Yacht and Country Club. It's a great event so mark the date on your 2011 social calendar.

“King Of The Seven Dwarfs”

By Steve Auyer

I ran across a copy of this book several weeks ago and bought a used copy for \$20 (more are available on Amazon.com if someone wants one). It's an interesting story by Homer “Barney” Oldfield of how GE's computer business began in Syracuse, moved to Phoenix, AZ, challenged IBM's dominance of the field, and was eventually sold to Honeywell. There are many references to programs and individuals in Syracuse who participated in this work. Anyone who worked with a GE 115/225/635 would enjoy reading the book.

However, Homer is not necessarily an unbiased writer and at least one other individual who was familiar with GE's work in this field has challenged portions of his story. As an example, you can check out:

http://ed-thelen.org/comp-hist/snively'_corrections_to_king_of_the_seven_dwarfs.html