



# Elfun Newsletter

**MAY 2011**

## CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by Roland Robb

This will be the last newsletter that you will hear from me in the corner. A new slate of Officers will be elected this month as outlined on the enclosed ballot. I know that each of the people on the ballot will do an excellent job for the Syracuse Chapter of the Elfun Society. Most of them have already demonstrated their skills and support for the Chapter They, however, would love to have other members step forward and volunteer their efforts in helping to run the Chapter and the many events that are put together during the year.

The year has passed more quickly then I first thought it would. It also passed more smoothly then I first envisioned and that happened, not because of me, but because of the efforts of the board members and the efforts of the various chairpersons of the many events that filled this year's calendar. I owe each of them a very special THANK YOU! Since I do not use e-mail it has been an extra task for the board to put up with. But, except for the initial "YOU DON'T USE E-MAIL ?????", they humored my lack of keeping up with the times.

It has been a privilege to again serve as your Chairman, and I thank each of you for the support you have provided to 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 of our chapter:

- Lawrence Degan
- Frank Ryan
- John Levidy

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

by Marv Hahn

The GE Volunteers had a quiet winter after a very busy 2010. We were finally able to get in to the Butterfly Garden of Hope to remove the holiday lights and store them for next season. Some of the regular lights at the Butterfly Garden are defective and we should repair those when the weather improves.

Potential tasks for the GE Volunteers are a lighting task at the North Area Athletic and Educational Center, Boy's Club at the Pond Street location and a project at the YWCA, Zonta House. Also, when the weather is suitable, we are planning to install another storage shed at the Francis House.

Anyone wishing to join the volunteer team, please give me a call at 699-2621 – additional workers are always needed, and welcomed!

## **GIFT MATCHING – A Reminder**

by Rudy Benfey

Donations of \$25 or more made to virtually any tax-exempt (501(c)3) organization, as well as to public and private schools and colleges, continue to be matched by the GE Foundation. GE employees, retirees, spouses 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/matchinggifts](http://gefoundation.com/matchinggifts). You will need your “SSO” (Single Sign-On number) to register. If you don’t have the SSO (or have forgotten it), you can obtain it at that same phone number – or, for on-line registration, at [benefits.ge.com](http://benefits.ge.com). Questions? Call me at 652-9790, or Cybergrants at 1-800-305-0669.

## **SOCIAL NEWS**

by Cindy Chermak

### **Syracuse Symphony Stained Glass Concert May 1**

As you all well know by now, the Syracuse Symphony suspended the remainder of its season and our May concert was cancelled. Fortunately, we had not paid for our tickets and we did not lose our money as did so many unfortunate patrons. With no hope of a miraculous reincarnation of the Symphony, we investigated the possibility of booking an alternate outing and maintaining the event, holding just the dinner at Coleman’s, or canceling altogether. Our Elfun board made the difficult decision to cancel the event and we have refunded the payments made by the 55 members of our Elfun group that had signed up for this event.

However, we have some fun events still in our spring and summer plans:

### **Broadway in the Finger Lakes Wednesday June 22**

Merry-Go-Round Theater in Auburn will present Cole Porter’s classic “Anything Goes” and we have booked a block of tickets for a 2PM matinee. This lively musical, which debuted on Broadway in 1934, will take us on a transatlantic crossing replete with corny humor, amazing dance numbers, and Cole Porter’s charming songs such as De-Lovely, Blow Gabriel Blow and the title song. Of course, true love will prevail in the end. Merry-Go-Round Theater is located in Auburn’s Emerson Park. There is ample handicapped and general parking. The park has a \$2 per car entry fee, which is waived for Seniors. Just show your gray hair and they will waive you right on in! Following the performance we’ll head to Skaneateles for a light dinner. The Sherwood Inn is delighted to host us again this year and we hope they prepare a meal as stunning as our lunch last June. Look for the enclosed flyer and take advantage of our “bargain rate” of \$99 per couple.

### **Syracuse Chiefs - Elfun Family Day at the Ballpark Sunday July 17**

We’ve turned this event into a mid-summer tradition in recent years. On July 17 the Chiefs will host the Philadelphia Phillies’ minor league affiliate Lehigh Valley IronPigs for a 5PM game. Once again Pete Scalzo has worked with Tex Simone and the Chiefs to secure a great package for us. We’ll have our usual reserved seats in Section 200 directly behind home plate and each



attendee will receive a concession voucher good for any food item at any of the refreshment stands. These are excellent seats and the group always has an enjoyable outing (at least if we don’t have a rain-out). Your immediate family (spouse, children, grandchildren) are welcome to this family event. The adults are \$5 and there is no cost for your grandchildren under 18. What a bargain! Thanks Pete. There is a flyer for this one as well so sign up early for a fun afternoon at the Chiefs game.

## SKANEATELES ACTIVITIES

by George Fay

These are the walks and events that the Skaneateles GE Volunteers and Elfuns will be participating in. Any one interested in joining us can contact me at [george.fay@ge.com](mailto:george.fay@ge.com) or at 246-1045.

- May 7<sup>th</sup> - Special Olympics, Weedsport HS
- May 15<sup>th</sup> - SPCA Pet Walk, Auburn
- May 21<sup>st</sup> - Great Strides 5K—Cystic Fibrosis, Inner Harbor
- May 28<sup>th</sup> - Ron Lawson Golf Tournament
- June - Relay For Life - Cancer Society, Auburn
- July 16<sup>th</sup> - Ride for the Rescue - Rescue Mission, Syracuse
- Oct - Making Strides Walk - Breast Cancer, Syracuse

## SENIOR LUNCHEON

by Dick Enright

Our Senior Luncheon this year features Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney. This should be a very interesting session based on the current political climate and we plan on a large attendance.

The luncheon will be held at the LeMoyne Manor on Old Liverpool Road. A flyer for this event was mailed out in March and is also included with this newsletter. If you plan to attend and do not have the flyer, please contact me at 457-1364.

This will be a great event so don't miss it.

## HOLIDAY PARTY

by Dick Enright

Just a reminder that our annual holiday dinner dance is scheduled for Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Lakeshore Yacht and Country Club. This is our premier social event of the year and is always well attended. If you haven't already done so, add this date to your December social calendar.

## NEWSLETTERS & FLYERS BY E-MAIL?

By Steve Auyer

As of this newsletter, over 100 Elfuns have signed up to receive the chapter's newsletters and flyers by e-mail instead of through the US Postal Service and we are encouraging additional Elfuns to take advantage of this service.

The advantage to the chapter is that we eliminate the cost of the mailings (over \$200 for the February newsletter) and the labor involved in printing the newsletters and flyers and stuffing the envelopes.

The advantages to the members are that you will receive the newsletters and flyers several weeks earlier, and they will be in color and higher resolution. There is an additional advantage in that the flyers will be full sized. To stay within the weight limits for a First Class mailing, those who receive this mailing as a hard copy will note that two of the flyers had to be reduced in size and printed two to a page.

To sign up for the e-mail service, please send an e-mail to me at [n2tkx@arrl.net](mailto:n2tkx@arrl.net). And remember that you can switch back to hard copies whenever you wish in the future.

The thumbnail shows the front page of the Efun Newsletter for March 2011. It features the GE logo and the title 'Efun Newsletter'. The main content includes a 'CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN' by Richard J. de la Cruz, an 'ELFUN LEADERSHIP TEAM' list, an 'IN MEMORIAM' section for a member who passed away in February, and a 'COMMUNITY SERVICE' section by Steve Auyer. The newsletter is presented in a clean, professional layout with a blue and white color scheme.



## DRUG QUIZ PLAYOFFS

By Pete Scalzo

As reported in the February newsletter, we are well on our way toward completing this 2011 event. Regional Playoffs were held on March 24<sup>th</sup> with NYS Semi-Finals on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Yet to come are the Finals on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers participating in the first two playoffs were: Bob Blake; Pete Capponi; Carl Chermak; Neal Schantz; Bob Killius; Jim Vaccaro; Fred Wenthen; Bob Murfitt; Phil Schuls and myself. If you have any questions about the event, or would like to sign up for next year's event, give me a call at home at 457-0598 (after 4pm please).

## "The Tizard Mission – The Top-Secret Operation that Changed the Course of World War II"

By Steve Auyer

This book was published in December 2010 and might be of some interest to those Syracuse Elfuns who worked the radar side of the house. It is available in hardcover from Amazon.com for \$18.48 (Kindle edition \$15.40).

During the 1930's the British had been actively pursuing the development of radar and by the end of the decade had determined that to meet operational requirements, they needed a radar that operated in the 10cm band with a pulsed power of multi-kilowatts. Klystron tubes could operate at this frequency but could not produce the required power. The British had produced samples of a device called a cavity magnetron which could provide both the frequency and the power, but they lacked the production capability. This book relates how Sir Henry Tizard visited the United States and induced a number of companies, including General Electric, to produce magnetrons in large quantities.

Of more interest to Syracuse are the chapters in the book that describe the establishment of the Radiation Laboratory at MIT and the development of the SCR-584 conical scan Fire Control Radar. This radar was truly state of the art and large quantities were needed. An initial production order of 1,600 was followed by additional orders and over 6,000 of these radars were produced by several firms before the end of the war. In Syracuse, General Electric took over an abandoned trolley car repair shop on Wolf Street and converted it to production of the SCR-584 radars.

**SCR-584 Systems Test on Wolf Street in May 1944**

