



# ELFUN NEWSLETTER

## Community Service

The GE Volunteers began this construction season with Stan Schubsda and Larry Flora installing 14 lights rebuilt by Marv Hahn in the Butterfly Garden of Hope on Onondaga Lake Parkway before the annual flowers were planted.

**June 6 and June 13** - the GE Volunteers removed a rusted metal storage shed at the Francis House residence on Michaels Avenue in Syracuse and assembled and erected a new 10 by 10 ft. metal storage shed. Sister Colette was very pleased with the results. Many thanks to volunteers Pete Capponi, Dick Enright, Marv Hahn, Chuck Hickmott, Dick Martin, Russ Rhea, Paul Simandle, Stan Schubsda, Art Toll, Fred Wenthen, and Clare Woods.

**June 13** - GE Volunteers Dick Enright, Marv Hahn, Art Toll, and Fred Wenthen rebuilt an ice damaged stair railing and step at The Newland Center (formerly the Learning Place) at East Genesee St., Syracuse.

**June 20** - the GE Volunteers returned to The Butterfly Garden of Hope to sand and apply pre-

**We can always use new volunteers. Please call Marv Hahn at 699-2621 to be added to the list.**

servative stain on 10 new benches and clean and apply preservative to the existing 90 benches. They also re-installed two more light units to have all 16 lights operating. Many thanks to the volunteers Pete Capponi, Myron Egtvedt, Dick Enright, Marv Hahn, Russ Rhea, Neal Schantz, Stan Schubsda, Art Toll, and Fred Wenthen.

Later this summer we anticipate projects at the Zonta House, the North Area Athletic Center, and the Rescue Mission.

Marv Hahn



**July 17 -  
Elfun Family  
Day at the  
Ballpark -  
This event is  
upcoming as  
we go to  
press so  
we'll will  
have a report  
in the Fall  
Newsletter.**

**You have  
until April  
15, 2012 to  
register your  
2011  
donations.**

## Social Events

**June 22** - Broadway in the Finger Lakes - "Anything Goes" has been a big hit since its debut in 1934 and our group of 58 was lucky enough to witness why this is a perennial favorite. You just can't go wrong if you like any aspect of Cole Porter, witty repartee, exceedingly corny humor, big musical numbers or fantastic tap dancing. We enjoyed all of the above and more. The Merry Go Round Playhouse split us into a section of seats at the center of the house and another in the front three rows. Believe me, those of us up front were so close that we could see every sequin in those beautiful gowns and we felt as if we were aboard that boat. The costumes were evocative of fun on the water, the set was a wonderful replica of a ocean liner, (it actually rotated for scene

changes), and the female lead channeled Ethel Mer- man quite well when she appeared in a bright red gown on the top deck to belt out "Blow Gabriel Blow".

After the show, we traveled the short distance to the Sherwood Inn in Skaneateles for a light dinner. The staff at the Sherwood was delighted to have us return and they took great care of us as we enjoyed a delicious dinner in the main dining room. This event was so well-received that several attendees suggested we do it again next year... so we will.

**September 7** - Upcoming Event IMAX and Lunch at Coleman's - Did you know that nearly 40 million people live along the 10,000 miles of coastline of the Great Lakes? Did you know that it takes a drop of water nearly

400 years to proceed from Lake Superior to Lake Ontario? These are just a few facts in the promotional material for "Mysteries of the Great Lakes". Let's go to the MoST to view this IMAX movie and learn more about these bodies of water in our own back yard. We'll arrive at the MoST at 10AM and will have an hour to visit the museum. Our own Steve Auyer has previously been involved with the MoST and he tells us there are several new and exciting exhibits. We'll see the movie at 11 and then proceed to Coleman's Authentic Irish Pub for lunch. When we cancelled our Coleman's lunch in May (due to the Symphony situation), I promised them we would try again. They are thrilled to have us and so let's have a big turnout!

Cindy Chermak

## From Rudy Benfey

### GE Elfuns Host Luncheon for Syracuse-Area Non-Profits

Nick Vaccaro hosted a luncheon at Julie's Place on June 15 to honor the leaders of 25 local non-profits that received matching gifts from the GE Foundation. In the last twelve months the Foundation matched gifts to Syracuse-area charitable and cultural organizations totaling more than \$246,000, for a combined total of almost half a million dollars.

In 2010, the Foundation's

matching gifts, world-wide, amounted to \$38 million.

Donations to virtually all non-profit (501(c)3) organizations, including schools and colleges, are matched by the Foundation. To register your donations, call (800) 305-0669, or go online to [www.gefoundation.com/matching-gifts](http://www.gefoundation.com/matching-gifts). Gift-match checks are sent out by the Foundation four times a year. You have until April 15, 2012 to register your 2011 donations. Questions? Call that number, or me at 652-9790.

### Election of Chapter Officers

The following Elfun chapter officers were elected for the year July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012:

- Chairman: Art Toll
- Vice Chairman: Steve Auyer
- Treasurer: Don MacLaughlin
- Secretary: Dave Fulmer
- Data Base Manager: Bob Ruth

Rudy

## Comfort4Kids

GE Volunteers around the globe participated in Comfort4Kids, the 2011 GE Volunteers Engagement Project by making stuffed animals for children in need. Upstate New York was no exception. Volunteers from GE Inspection Technologies kicked off the project on Tuesday February 28, 2011 by building 20 stuffed animals along with residents of the Auburn Nursing Home. Volunteers from GE Healthcare and the SUNY Nursing Staff built an additional 30 stuffed animals at the SUNY Upstate Medical University Pediatric Surgery Center on

Tuesday June 28, 2011. All 50 animals were built with love and each comes with its own Birth Certificate. The stuffed animals will be given to children awaiting surgery at the SUNY Upstate Medical University Pediatric Surgery Center.

If you are interested in joining your colleagues to participate in other projects that can make a difference in our community, sign up for one of our upcoming projects by visiting the GE Volunteers Portal .

Carl Chermak



### Volunteers Portal

<http://volunteers.gecompany.com/volunteers/> or [www.gevolunteers.com](http://www.gevolunteers.com).

## From The Editor

It's probably a sign that I have way too much time on my hands but I decided to reformat this issue of the newsletter – nothing wrong with the previous format but since we're offering distribution of the newsletter in color by e-mail, and now have access to a color printer, it seemed like a little more color in the newsletter might be worth-

while – maybe a little too much blue?

The newsletter this month contains the annual dues request. Folks receiving their newsletter via e-mail will get that copy and then several weeks later a hard copy in the mail – that way everyone will have a hard copy of the dues invoice.

As of now, about 125 out of about 500 newsletters are being distributed by e-mail and this seems to be well-received. If you'd like to try e-mail distribution, check off the box on the dues invoice – you can always switch back to a hard copy later.

Also, Cindy Chermak tells me that she is planning to organize a "flash" event

sometime this fall – with a "flash" event being one where no reservation is necessary – you just show up. Publicity of the "flash" event will be only by e-mail – no hard copy flyers will be mailed out. If the event is only half as super as Cindy's other events it ought to be great – stay tuned.

Steve Auyer

## From Dick Enright

**In Memoriam**—We have received word of the deaths of the following Senior members of our chapter:

Robert Behnke

Dr. Gerald Palmer  
Sam Langwald  
Joseph "Charlie" Gioia

**Holiday Party**—A reminder that our annual Holiday Party is scheduled for

December 3rd at the Lakeshore Yacht & Country Club. We are expecting another large turnout for this outstanding event. This is a great opportunity to renew acquaintances and start the holiday season. If you have

never attended a past party, this is a great time to start.

A detailed flyer for this event will be included with the November newsletter.

Dick



## Chairman's Column

My name is Art Toll and I am the newly elected Chairman of the Syracuse Chapter of the GE Elfun Society. Originally from northern New Hampshire., I joined the local GE organization after serving four years in the Air Force as an engineer stationed in Rome, NY and completing my military commitment. While at GE, I held numerous management

positions in the radar section and retired in 2004.

I am married and have a daughter and son who both live in Syracuse with their families. I enjoy spending time with my family, and you can see me on the ski slopes in the winter and biking in the better weather.

As a member of the Elfun Society for a number of

years, I have enjoyed working with Marv's construction group and plan to continue with this effort.

My goals are to continue to serve the local communities in which we live and support the local Elfun Society and its members. In order to accomplish this, I welcome feedback as to what organizations in the

community could use our help as well as suggestions for Elfun events and thoughts on general improvements.

My Email Address is Art.Toll@yahoo.com

My Phone Number is (315) 415-3295

Art

## From Pete Scalzo

I was recently talking to one of the directors of the Food Bank of Central New York and learned of several volunteer opportunities with that organization. Here are some of the details they sent me:

### “Grocery Rescue—

Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays anytime between 9am - 2pm. Volunteers will work in our warehouse helping to sort donated food in our grocery rescue program and package it for distribution to our emergency program partners -food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters.

### Food for Families—

Volunteers are needed on Friday, December 16 at select Tops Friendly Markets for shifts between 6am - 7pm. Volunteers will be accepting donations of food and cash from customers at the store. They

will then store donations appropriately, whether on a truck or in a locked box. Volunteers will be stationed inside of and outside store locations. Tops offers hospitality to volunteers through food and drinks. This promotion is a joint partnership between Tops Friendly Markets, 9 WSYR, Clear Channel Radio and the Food Bank of Central New York. This is a first year program for the Syracuse market but has been successfully run in the Buffalo and Rochester regions for years.

Food Bank of Central New York has been helping to feed the hungry since 1985. We are the main food supplier to 277 emergency food programs - helping fill food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters for distribution to the hungry. Food Bank of Central New York distributed 11,232,123 pounds of food last year, which trans-



**Food Bank**  
of Central New York

WE WORK FOR FOOD.

lated into 8,640,094 meals - that's 23,671 meals a day! Our service area includes the following 11 counties in central and northern New York - Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, and St. Lawrence.”

If you have questions about these opportunities you can contact me at home in the late afternoon or evenings at (315) 457-0598. To sign up as a volunteer with the Food Bank, call Lynn Hy, their Director of Philanthropy at (315) 437-1899 ext. 247.

**23,671 meals  
a day last  
year!**

Pete