



GE ELFUN NEWSLETTER

Annual Holiday Party

This year's Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 3rd at the Lake Shore Yacht and Country Club. Food service will again be provided by Karen's Catering service which has served outstanding meals for this event for the past four years. We can expect a large array of both hot and cold appetizers including the popular Flaming Shrimp Station. After dinner a large selection of desserts will be available.

Smokin, the ever popular local band will provide music for your dancing and listening pleasure. A variety of pieces from the 40's through to current times will be performed. Vocals are sung by Janice Wilson, accompanied by band members.



This year's price is unchanged from last year's at \$75/couple for paid-up members and \$85/couple for non dues paying Elfuns. This is a great party and we urge all

our members to take this opportunity to start the holiday season and renew old acquaintances. This is a good time to suggest to some of your GE friends that they join you for an evening of fun.

The party starts at 6:00pm with an open bar till 7:00pm. Dinner is served at 7:00pm and dancing will follow till 10:00pm.

For entrée selections and reservation information, please see the enclosed flyer. Your check payable to Elfun Society, along with your entrée choice(s) and seating preference should be sent to:

Richard Enright
113 Patricia Drive
North Syracuse, NY 13212
(315) 457-1364

Your reservation must be received no later than Monday, November 28th. Don't miss this great event.

From Rudy Benfey.....

GIFT MATCHING – A REMINDER

The GE Foundation continues to match donations made by GE employees and retirees, and their spouses/surviving spouses, of \$25 or more to virtually all non-profit (501(c)3) organizations, as well as to colleges and private and public schools. To have your gift matched, call 1-800-305-0669, or go online to gefoundation.com/matching_gifts. You have until April 15, 2012 to register this year's donations, but the

sooner you do so, the sooner the organization will receive their matching check.

Symphony Syracuse has been established as a non-profit organization, and donations are being matched by the GE Foundation. Two other groups are in the process of establishing their tax-exempt status: The Syracuse Philharmonic, and the Dewitt 9/11 Memorial Fund.

Questions? Call that 800-number, or Rudy Benfey at 652-9790.

In Memoriam

We have received word of the death of Senior Elfun Ed Kimbrell on September 30th. His obituary appeared in the Syracuse Post-Standard on October 3rd.

Social Events

Syracuse Chiefs Elfun Family Day at the Ballpark July 17, 2011

2011 may not go down in history as the Chief's greatest season, but the team had a good night on July 17 when our group of 47 was among the 4255 in attendance. Jimmy Key, former Chief and World Series Champ, threw the first pitch and signed autographs on the concourse. The Chiefs welcomed us on the scoreboard. Thanks to George Fay and Dave Fulmer for shooting pictures of our welcome. The game was exciting, including 15 hits, some spectacular fielding, a couple of errors, a two-run homer for the Chiefs, and unfortunately, a three-run homer for the Iron-Pigs. To top it off, the IronPigs' Taco Bell K-Man struck out and we all won a free taco. I'm not sure how many of us made the trip to Taco Bell to collect on that one after we enjoyed all that ballpark fare. We broke our streak of rain-outs and rain delays with a hot, dry night. Everyone survived the heat with a bit of shade and an occasional breeze, but it was still 90 degrees when the game ended at 8 PM. Whew! Thanks again to Tex Simone and the Chiefs for hosting our group, and to Pete Scalzo for making the arrangements. We look forward to this annual family event again in 2012.

Mysteries of the Great Lakes September 7, 2011

We enjoyed our back-to-school field trip to the MoST right after Labor Day and learned much about these great bodies of water that supply fresh water to 1/3 of the Canadian population and 1/7 of the American. The film displayed dynamic scenery and told the story of the pollution and resultant efforts to clear the lakes and preserve them for future generations. How nice to learn about this wonder in our own back yard!

The MoST moved our show time ahead a bit to enable us to partake in a special event - it happened that our Lieutenant Governor, Bob Duffy, was present to dedicate the "New York Remembers" exhibit commemorating the 10th Anniversary of 9/11. The museum invited our group to the festivities. We had the opportunity to view the items that pay tribute to the heroes of the day and listen to the speeches by several dignitaries. Then it was off to Coleman's for a traditional Irish feast. 74 of us crammed into a banquet area that holds 75, so it was a bit cozy. Good thing we all like each other. The lunch was delicious and we are happy to have dined there after cancelling earlier in the year.

Future Events

As we go to press we are planning a trial event that will be

broadcast via email and the Elfun website only. Many of our regular attendees are web-savvy and we would like to gauge the response for a paperless-event. Watch your in-box for details.

Social Events will take its customary winter break after the Holiday Party on 12/3. We hope all of our snowbirds enjoy the warm winter. Here are our tentative plans for 2012:

- TBA - Spring/Summer Chiefs Game
- June - Skaneateles Lake Lunch Cruise
- September - Merry-Go-Round Playhouse "Cabaret" and dinner at the Sherwood Inn
- October - we are contemplating a repeat of the Adirondack Railroad Scenic Day Trip
- TBA - One Extra Event

We hope that everyone enjoyed our outings this year and will continue to attend these events for fun and fellowship in 2012.

Skaneateles

We hear that the folks from Skaneateles are going to participate in the **2011 Jingle Bell Run/Walk** at Long Branch Park on Sunday, November 20th. Why not join them? Register on-line through the 17th, or you can call George Fay at 554-2189 or Anne Milne at 554-2035.

Cindy Chermak



**ELFUN LEADERSHIP TEAM
2011-2012**

Chairman Pro-Tem	Steve Auyer	451-7359
Vice Chairman	Steve Auyer	451-7359
Treasurer	Don MacLaughlin	652-5792
Secretary	Dave Fulmer	457-4087
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	Roland Robb	637-5251
GE Volunteers Rep.	Carl Chermak	452-7260
Newsletter Editor	Steve Auyer	451-7359
Communications	Rudy Benfey	652-9790

n2tkx@arrl.net

Communications

To date, 40% of those Elfuns paying their dues have requested that all communications from our chapter (including newsletters, reminders, special events, etc.) be handled by e-mail instead of a hard copy via the US Postal Service. Another 22% provided an e-mail address but did not request communications by e-mail. If you're among those 22% you'll be receiving both a hard copy and a copy by e-mail of this newsletter. If you like what you get by e-mail, a note to myself or Bob Ruth will get you switched over to e-mail only.

We're supplementing our quarterly newsletters with additional



communications that, for lack of something better, we're calling "Quick Notes." The first Quick Notes was sent out in September and consisted of seven pages. It included articles on what it's like

to be a GE employee on a hijacked airliner and an article on how the spouse of a GE retiree fought to get a 9/11 Memorial for Dewitt. Also included was a summary of recent newspaper articles of interest to GE retirees and, for railroad buffs, a list of fall railroad excursion tours in the area.

To speed distribution of Quick Notes and to minimize the added effort, this publication is being sent ONLY to those Elfuns who have signed up to receive their newsletters by e-mail. Another reason to think about switching over to receiving communications by e-mail!

Construction

The GE Volunteers completed a project at the Zonta House on September 9th and 12th, 2011. Zonta House is the Girls Incorporated facility for the YWCA of Syracuse and Onondaga County, 401 Douglas St., Syracuse.

The project consisted of: power washing the handicap ramp and allowing it to dry; repairing an ice damaged hole in the roof of the storage shed; installing a new hand railing to replace the aged and ice damaged hand railing; and applying a cedar stain paint to the ice-protective roof structure of the handicap entrance that the GE Volunteers previously installed and to the railing, spindles, supports, and the ramp itself. The basement ceiling insulation task will be at a later date.

This project required a total of 70 man hours to complete, including planning and procurement of materials.

The 8 volunteers included Bill McGrath, Marv Hahn, Art Toll, Dick Martin, Fred Wenthon, Neal Schantz, Dick Enright, and Pete Capponi. Also, Anne Milne, of the GE Skaneateles plant, assisted in the procurement of the material and the power washer.

