



# GE ELFUN NEWSLETTER

## Art Toll Receives Elfun of the Year Award

At the Holiday Party, Art Toll was presented with the 2011 Elfun of the year Award. Art is a past Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Syracuse Chapter and has shown his dedication to the chapter's public service mission by participating in virtually every one of the chapter's community service projects since 2004.

In addition to his Elfun activities, he participated in the AARP tax preparation program for senior citizens for a number of years, he was Chairman of the Architectural Standards Committee for Radisson, and he is currently on the board of the Onondaga Ski Club.

At Art's request, a donation in his name was made to the Baldwinsville Meals On Wheels Program.



## Social

We are planning a busy social schedule this year. We'll begin on Sunday, April 22 with a 3:00 PM performance of the Onondaga Civic Orchestra. Some of our members, including Ed Brennan and Fred Wenthen, are part of the orchestra and we are pleased we can help support their efforts. We'll follow the concert with "Italian Sunday Dinner" at Luigi's Restaurant. The menu includes chef's choice pasta, garden salad with Italian dressing, Italian bread and butter and coffee, tea or soft drink. It sounds delicious! See the enclosed flyer for all the details and make your reservations early for our first event of the season.

Summer arrives on June 20 and we'll celebrate by joining Mid-Lakes Navigation for the first luncheon cruise of the summer on Thursday, June 21. This event is an old favorite and Mid-Lakes is looking forward to hosting us again for a great lunch and a two hour narrated cruise on beautiful Skaneateles Lake. We will

firm up details next month and include the flyer in the May newsletter. Meanwhile, mark your calendars and save the date.

While you are marking your calendar, turn to September and plan to spend Wednesday the 5th at Merry-Go-Round Theater's matinee performance of "Cabaret". We'll follow with a light post-theater lunch at The Sherwood Inn. Our trip to "Anything Goes" last year was well-received and this event will be a carbon copy. Again, look for the flyer in the next newsletter.

We are also planning another outing to a Chief's game and a fall foliage trip on the Adirondack Scenic Railroad and will pass along details as we finalize our plans. We hope to see everyone at one or more of our get-togethers this year.

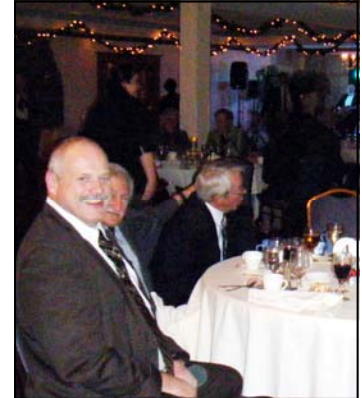
Cindy Chermak

## Elfun Holiday Party

The annual Holiday Party was held on Saturday, December 3rd, at the Lakeshore Yacht and Country Club. Over 90 Elfuns and guests attended and were again treated to an excellent dinner. An evening of dancing followed with music provided by the fine band “Smokin.” Vocals were sung by Janice Wilson with the accompaniment of band members.

Beautiful table decorations were provided by Donna Enright.

The 2012 holiday party will be held on Saturday, December 1st, again at the Lakeshore Yacht and Country Club. It’s a great party so mark your social calendar and plan to attend.



Dick Enright

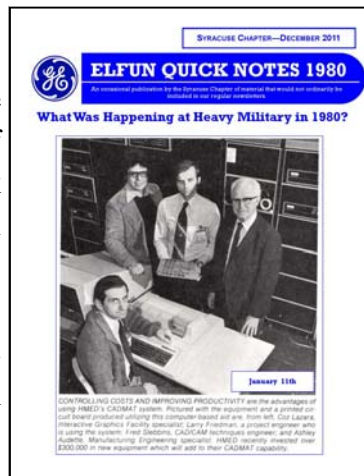




## Chairman's Column

After a relaxing and pleasant holiday season following the Holiday Dinner Dance on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we're off into 2012. Marv Hahn has already completed one work project and more are in the planning stages. Cindy Chermak has already begun to schedule special events as you'll see in this newsletter and the enclosed flyer. And George Fay continues to run a number of activities and events aimed at the Skanaeteles members.

Our chapter membership continues to hold steady at around 500 members. Of those, 40% have elected to receive all communications by e-mail and we are working to increase that percentage to reduce the cost and labor involved with mailings through the US Postal service, as well as to speed up and improve our communications with our members. E-mail also allows us to offer you additional information that we could not distribute in hard copy format because of the cost and size of the documents. Good examples of these are the November Quick Notes which included the Elfun Survivor's Guide and the December Quick Notes which included a look back at what we were doing in 1980 culled from archive copies of the GE News. If you haven't already signed up for e-mail communications, you can do so by sending me an e-mail.



And in addition to communicating by e-mail, we've begun to post past copies of our newsletter and Quick Notes on our web site at: [www.memberconnections.com/olc/pub/GNL/cpages/homepage.jsp?chapter=84](http://www.memberconnections.com/olc/pub/GNL/cpages/homepage.jsp?chapter=84)

There are a number of GE retirees groups in the Syracuse area. One of the larger and longer-running groups meets for lunch at the LeMoyne Manor on the second Thursday of every month – at least they did until the Manor closed at the end of January. The group now meets at Barbagallo's Restaurant on East Molloy Road – still on the second Thursday. Sometimes they have a speaker, sometimes they just meet and enjoy each other's company. Bill Poorman mails out monthly reminders of the meeting and the menu choices. If you'd like to get on Bill's mailing list, send him \$5 at 6102 Bay Hill Circle, Jamesville, NY 13078. If you have a group that meets and you'd like to let folks know, send me an e-mail and I'll mention it in the next newsletter.

Rudy Benfey would like me to remind you that **YOU HAVE UNTIL APRIL 15TH** to register your 2011 gifts for matching by the GE Foundation (Rudy's capitalization, not mine). The Foundation matches charitable donations of \$25 or more made by GE employees, retirees and spouses. To register your gifts, call 1-800-305-0669, or on-line at [gefoundation.com/matchinggifts](http://gefoundation.com/matchinggifts). If you have questions, call that number, or Rudy Benfey at 652-9790.

## In Memoriam

We have received word of the deaths of Senior Elfuns Philip Pedley and Stanley Ziemba.

Carl Chermak reports that the GE Volunteers will be doing the Comfort4Kids GE bears again, this time at the Cayuga Medical Center in Ithaca in February. So there's a lot going on in the chapter.

Steve Ayer  
n2tkx@arri.net

## Community Service

The GE Volunteers returned to The Newland Center (formerly called The Learning Place at East Genesee Street in Syracuse. They were planning a meeting at the outdoor pavilion and desired a closure to prevent children from wandering behind the building. We removed weeds and brush and built a fence similar to the existing fence to close off the area. Many thanks to the volunteers Bill McGrath, Marv Hahn, Neal Schantz, Russ Rhea, Fred Wenthen, and Dick Enright.

As in past years, the Syracuse Chapter of the Elfyn Society installed holiday lights at the Butterfly Garden of Hope on Onondaga Lake Parkway to coordinate with the Lights On The Lake display. This year it included LED lights that were well liked.

The GE Volunteers returned to the YWCA Zonta House on Douglas St. in Syracuse to install insulation in the ceiling of the basement maintenance area and to repair a wall with sheetrock in a base-

ment storage room. The supervisor, Sam Bova, was very pleased with the results and thanked volunteers Pete Capponi, Dave Fulmer, Leo Gordona, Marv Hahn, Jim Jaeger, Neal Schantz, and Fred Wenthen.

The Syracuse Chapter Board decided to have a luncheon in November for the GE Volunteers as a thank you for the many projects they have done over the years. Led by Syracuse Elfyn Chapter Chairman Steve Auyer and past Chairman Roland Robb, the volunteers present were: Lou Alteri, Pete Capponi, Myron Egtvedt, Dick Enright, Joe Dreher, Leo Gordona, Marv Hahn, Harry Heilman, Jim Jaeger, Bob Killius, Dick Martin, Bill McGrath, Russ Rhea, Stan Shubsda, Neal Schantz, Art Toll, and Fred Wenthen. We missed not having Stan Ziemba, who recently passed away, and Ed Grinnell, our project leaders for many, many years.

Marv Hahn

