

## In Memoriam

We have received word of the deaths of the following Elfun:

**Ernest “Ernie” Victor Pachilis**, on April 29, 2017, in Syracuse, NY.

**Richard A. “Dick” Nolan**, on June 18, 2017, in Syracuse, NY.

**Robert “Bob” Ray Greenwood**, on June 18, 2017, in Richardson, TX.

**Roland E. Robb**, on June 28, 2017, in Syracuse, NY.

Several members have asked whether obituaries could be included in this newsletter. Because of weight limitations on First Class mail, space in this newsletter is limited and the tradeoff would be that other material would have to be eliminated if obituaries were included. However, the majority of obituaries can be viewed on-line at [obits.syracuse.com/obituaries/syracuse/](http://obits.syracuse.com/obituaries/syracuse/). This site works best if you select the **Advanced Search** option which allows you to select a date range and keyword.

## Community Service



We continued to support HOPE for Bereaved with repairs and maintenance at the Butterfly Garden of HOPE on Onondaga Lake Parkway. The main sign was damaged by severe weather – knocked over and split into several pieces. During June the sign was

rebuilt by Marv Hahn and Klaus Aserian and then reinstalled by Fred Wenthon, Dick Enright, Pete Capponi, Marv Hahn, Bill Arnold, Neal Schantz and Ed Brennan. Work also included repair of the sign lighting and trimming bushes along the brick path.

In July the Memorial Benches at the garden were cleaned and stained and some minor repairs were made to the lighting. Also in July, under the leadership of Pete Scalzo, a number of volunteers supported the Food Bank of Central New York by manning collection stations during the 3-day Syracuse Nationals – the largest car show in the northeast. Anyone who has seen the movie “Grease” will know what a thrill it is for the volunteers to see (and hear) the cars up close.

## Annual Meeting

The May 18<sup>th</sup> Luncheon and Annual Meeting at Barbagallo’s was well attended with 46 Elfun and spouses present. While dessert was being served after the usual excellent lunch, a brief annual meeting of the Syracuse Elfun Society was conducted. A “How We Got from 1928 to Today” history of the Elfun Society from its founding in 1928, through the announcement of Electronics Park in 1944, the merging of the Elfun Society into GE Volunteers in 2014, and the incorporation of the Syracuse Elfun Society in 2015 was discussed – supplemented by reprints of some documents from 1944, 1953 and 1978. (On a side note, the last page of the 1978 booklet celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Syracuse Chapter of the Elfun Society had pictures of the 12 officers for that year and one of them, Al Larmann, Jr., was present at the meeting so we asked him to stand and be recognized.) That led into the current status of the Syracuse Society, its financial status and activities with Cindy Chermak reminding us of the remaining six events planned for 2017. With no questions from the floor the Annual Meeting was declared closed and we moved on to the program.

Dennis Connors of the Onondaga Historical Association was introduced, presented with an Elfun coffee

bug, made an honorary member of the Syracuse Society, and informed that Bob Bryerton, our Treasurer, would soon be sending him a bill for his 2017-2018 dues in the chapter. Dennis took that in fun as intended and launched into his 35-minute presentation on the history of General Electric in Syracuse, beginning with the need to counter the German U-Boat attacks on our Atlantic convoys in 1942, through to the sale to Martin Marietta in 1993 and the merger with Lockheed in the following year, showing many interesting photos and delighting us with many interesting bits of information along the way.

## Social Events

We began 2017 with a breeze of social events. Our year began on April 23<sup>rd</sup> when our group enjoyed a family style Italian dinner at Luigi's, followed by the Onondaga Civic Symphony Orchestra concert. The concert took place in beautiful Atonement Lutheran Church, which was still gaily decorated for Easter and spring. The music, all with a water theme, ranged from Handel's "Water Music" to a new work, "Maelstrom", which debuted in 2016. The highlight was Ernst Bacon's 1961 "Erie Waters", which was commissioned by the Utica Symphony while Bacon was a professor at SU. Bacon's wife addressed the audience prior to the performance, giving us some background on the piece and the influence of the Erie Canal (I've got a mule, her name is Sal, 15 miles on the Erie Canal). Many thanks to Fred Wenthen for coordinating the ticketing and concert arrangements.

The concert was a perfect springboard into our lunch at the Waterfront Grille and cruise on the Erie Canal on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We traveled to Herkimer to have a great meal and then board the Lil' Diamond for a narrated cruise educating us on the history and architecture of the canal. The earlier cruise that day was a group of 125 4<sup>th</sup> graders completing a history unit on the Canal. I hope our group was as attentive and better behaved! Captain Jerry was a fascinating guide, and he made certain we heard about every single piece of



GE equipment that was original to, and still functioning, in the lock. Our only disappointment was that we did not see any bald eagles among all the other wildlife on the waterway. Steve Auyer shot plenty of video, which is available at [youtu.be/CVK0PFmFufg](http://youtu.be/CVK0PFmFufg). Take a look and see how much fun we have when we are out together.

On June 19<sup>th</sup> we returned to a perennial favorite when we took in the matinee of "Guys and Dolls" at Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, followed by a tasty buffet dinner at The Sherwood Inn. We overheard some interesting remarks this day: "*I didn't think I knew anything about the show, but it turns out I knew all of the songs*", and "*We have been back from Florida for just a few weeks and we have already been to three Elfun events*". Feedback on the day was so positive that we have reserved our group for the "Always Patsy Cline" matinee at 2pm on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. To keep it simple, we have not organized a meal, but will include a list of attendees so that we can schedule casual get-togethers with our friends before or after the show. The flyer is included with this newsletter, and the deadline is soon. Sign up now!

Our annual Elfun Family Day at the Ballpark on Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> brought beautiful weather and an



introduction to the RedSox #1 prospect. He was promoted to AAA the previous night and went 4 for 4 with a home run. His performance was not quite as strong on Sunday, though the PawSox still defeated the Chiefs. Nonetheless, we had a fun afternoon. The Chiefs assign us a nice block of seats behind home plate and provide us with a little bit of meal money and parking passes. We even had the opportunity to watch Steve and Donna Auyer's grandchildren run the bases at the conclusion of the game.

Lastly, our flyer for a tour of the Salmon River Fish Hatchery and lunch at the beautiful Tailwater Lodge on October 13<sup>th</sup> is included with this newsletter. Sign up and plan to spend a fall day in Altmar lunching and learning.

Remember that we post all of our flyers on the website **SyracuseElfunSociety.org**, so you can always check the web for updated news and/or to find details of upcoming social events.

## 2nd Thursday Luncheons

Dan Steele, GE retiree and former Heavy Military and E-Lab employee, presented an interesting “An



Engineer’s Tesla Experience” talk at the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dan began by recounting how he and his wife had been driving two older vehicles that were nearing the end of their useful life and one day he asked his wife, “Suppose we replaced one of the cars with a Tesla?” His wife responded, “Great! What’s a Tesla?” and they quickly became the owners of a Tesla Model S, soon to be followed by a second Tesla, a Model X this time.

As Dan described the design of the Tesla, it’s performance and the customer service that Tesla provides it sure changed my impression of Tesla. I had always thought of Tesla as a somewhat all-electric, more expensive version of a Toyota Prius but that was wrong. Tesla took more of a systems approach, looking not only at the design of the vehicle but also the way it will be driven, a nationwide network of SuperCharger stations, and a unique approach to aftermarket service. I walked out of his presentation thinking that if a Prius is the Chevrolet of hybrids, a Tesla is the BMW/Mercedes of all-electric vehicles – and priced accordingly.

The 2nd Thursday luncheons at Barbagallo’s restaurant are open to all. Past programs have included: Catherine Underhill – Symphoria Managing Director; Bud Poloquin – Sports Columnist, Joe Casper – Ephesis Lighting; Ron Peckham – C&S Companies; Peter Plumley – MoST, and the list goes on and on. Contact Bill Poorman at 1-315-446-3332 or **Bill-Poorman@gmail.com** to get on the meeting announcement mailing list.

## Golf Outing in September

Many thanks to Bob Blake for pulling this together for Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Tuscarora Golf Club on Howlett Hill Road in Marcellus. We will be a little less formal this year with no prizes – just golf, a meal and the pleasure of your friends. The flyer accompanies this newsletter and please note the deadline for signups of September 9<sup>th</sup>!

## 2017-2018 Officers

At the Board of Directors meeting of the Syracuse Elfun Society on July 14<sup>th</sup> the officers shown in the table on page 4 were elected for the season that runs from July 2017 through June of 2018. We would also like to welcome Neal Schantz and Bill Arnold back to the board to fill out the terms of two other directors. Both Neal and Bill have a long-term in-

volvement with Elfun and are great additions to our BoD!

## Online Videos

If you have been receiving information on the Syracuse Elfun Society by e-mail you already know this. But for those of you that haven't, we now have a "channel" on YouTube that offers a number of videos of the history of both General Electric and Syracuse, as well as the special events that Cindy organizes for us, that you can view at your leisure.

Samples of what you can watch include:

- A silent movie produced by GE in 1915 that describes the marvelous electrical appliances that will make the housewife's work so much easier.
- A 1955 movie produced in Syracuse that describes the many products and technologies offered by GE's Heavy Military Equipment Department.
- A 1989 video produced at GE's corporate headquarters that features Jack Welch describing the "GE Growth Engine" and why several product lines had been acquired and others sold off.
- A 1993 video of Norm Augustine explaining about why GE Aerospace was such a great buy for Martin Marietta.

- The June 2017 video of the Erie Canal Cruise that Cindy mentioned earlier in this newsletter.

If you receive this newsletter by e-mail, there's an attachment that shows the web addresses for all the above videos and more, that you can copy and paste into your browser to watch the videos.

Or you can go to **www.YouTube.com**, search on "Syracuse Elfun Society", and click on the link that pops up to see all the videos that are available.

## Chairperson's Column

I am humbled that you have selected me to lead the Syracuse Elfun Society. If you look at the box below with the membership team, you will see that the positions of Secretary and Vice-Chairperson are currently open. In order to keep doing the good things that we have been doing, we need a fully staffed board. We won't make you work too hard: attend the monthly board meeting, Secretary record and distribute minutes, Vice-Chairperson conduct the meeting in the absence of the Chairperson. If you would like to volunteer, drop me a note at **cchermak@aclara.com**. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Carl

### Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors

SyracuseElfunSociety.org

Position	Individual	E-mail	Phone
Chairperson	Carl Chermak	CChermak@aclara.com	1-315-637-0380
Vice-Chairperson	open		
Secretary	open		
Treasurer	Bob Bryerton	BryertonRobert@gmail.com	1-315-395-1726
Webmaster/DB	Bob Ruth	RuthRob@msn.com	1-315-451-0685
Communications	Steve Auyer	n2tkx@arri.net	1-315-451-7359
Seniors	Dick Enright	donnaarue1@verizon.net	1-315-457-1364
Social Events	Cindy Chermak	Chermak@msn.com	1-315-637-0380
Work Projects	Marv Hahn	MarvH@twcny.rr.com	1-315-699-2621
At Large	Fred Wenthen	Fred.Wenthen@gmail.com	private
At Large	Neal Schantz	NSchantz37@verizon.net	1-315-652-6467
At Large	Bill Arnold	wja1000@verizon.net	1-315-458-1045