

In Memoriam

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

Marilyn Cohn Wiggers, 74 of Skaneateles, died Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at Frances House in Syracuse.

Alfred "Fritz" Viggiano, 91, of Syracuse, passed away on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at Menorah Park.

Vito D. Angerson, 92, of Liverpool, passed away on September 30, 2018.

John William Pool, 91, of Manlius, died on November 19, 2018.

William A. Garand, 87, of Liverpool, passed away on November 21, 2018.

Leonard R. Pollman, Sr., "Len", 90, of Syracuse, died on November 23, 2018.

George T. Riley, 90, of Fairmount, passed away at The Centers at St. Camillus on December 14, 2018.

Charles Stanley Bullen, 88, passed away on December 20, 2018 in Swampscott, MA.

William P. McGrath, 86, of Fayetteville, passed away on December 23, 2018 at Crouse Hospital.

Full obituaries may be found on Syracuse.com.

Chairman's Column

Happy New Years to all the Syracuse Elfun and your families. We have many events to look forward to in 2019. John Heywood once said that 'Many hands make light work'. If each Elfun can volunteer to help with just one event, that will greatly ease the load of those who coordinate the events. Drop me a line and let me know how you can help and, as always, I welcome your comments. Address them to me at cchermak@aclar.com.

2018 Service Award

We are pleased to announce Dick and Donna Enright as our 2018 Syracuse Elfun Society Service Award recipients. Dick has had a long tenure on the Syracuse Elfun Society board, joining in 1985 and serving as our Treasurer from 1986-87, Investment Chair 1988-2008, Vice Chair 2008-2009 and finally our Senior Representative since 2010. He has coordinated the lunches and snacks, and worked on the projects, for our Elfun volunteers since 1990. As our Senior Rep, Dick has had the unenviable task of monitoring the passing of our members and coordinating the condolences and announcements in the newsletter. On a much happier note, Dick has arranged the Senior Luncheon in May and the Holiday Party in December for about as long as we can remember (since 2006 for the Holiday Party and 2010 for the Senior Lunch). Both are tremendously popular events, and we appreciate Dick's efforts in making them work smoothly and be so enjoyable for our members.



Donna Enright is the co-recipient of this award, for her partnership with Dick in organizing our holiday get together as well as creating the wonderful centerpieces for well over a decade. The reveal of the centerpiece winner at each table has long been a highlight of the dinner party. How many of us own one or more of these ourselves, or have been so pleased to win one to give to a daughter or daughter in law? We had to remind the Elfun at the Holiday Lunch at The Inn Between NOT to take the centerpieces this year! Congratulations Dick and Donna, thank you for all you do for our Chapter, and we cannot wait to see you back at our social events in 2019.

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2018-2019 Social Events

Tour & Luncheon - On October 23 we toured the Oneida Community Mansion House for a lesson on the history of the community and their products, which culminated in the well-known Oneida Community Stainless. The tour began with a presentation in the Community Hall. The utopian society, founded by



John Humphrey Noyes and consisting of over 240 adults and 60 children, lived communally in the mansion and produced goods ranging from brooms, animal traps, and chains to lace paper, before the ensuing company, Oneida Community Limited, settled on stainless flatware. We broke into groups for the tour and saw the upper sitting room, a sleeping



room which was about the size of a closet, samples of the clothing worn, the industries exhibit which showcased products and much of the advertising for the silver, the library, and the nursery kitchen. Our docents added much insight as we viewed each area. We were surprised to learn that descendants of Noyes either continue to live in the Mansion House or volunteer there. It was a delight to have our delicious lunch served in the dining area of the Mansion House, and



we all enjoyed that hummingbird cake. Many remarked that they had been unaware of the community and Mansion House or had heard of it but had never visited this piece of CNY history, so we learned a little something today.

Holiday Luncheon - We enjoyed our inaugural holiday lunch at The Inn Between Restaurant on December 1. A festive group of 67 mingled in three rooms which were beautifully decorated for Christmas and offered stunning winter views of the fields surrounding the Inn. The food was outstanding and the staff took excellent care of us. Although we missed the glamour of the dinner dance at Lakeshore, the luncheon proved to be a popular alternative, with remarks that the table conversation was delightful with the lower music volume. We will continue the luncheon this year on Saturday December 7, again at the Inn Between – so mark this date on your calendar!

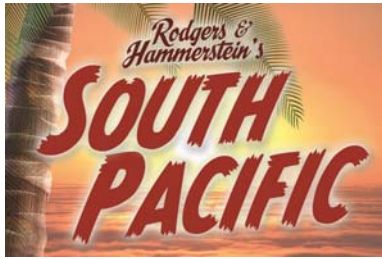
A few photos from the event are on the following page and we apologize to those who attended that were not captured in a photo!



Upcoming Events

Theatre & Dinner

Mark your calendars for Monday **August 19** for our annual outing to Merry-Go-Round Playhouse and dinner at The Sherwood Inn.



Our 2 pm matinee will be “South Pacific”, based on the James Michener book “Tales of the South Pacific”. It is an old favorite, and yes, we have all seen it before. But, Rogers and Hammerstein created a memorable score which has stood the test of time since the musical debuted in 1949 and subsequently won 11 Tony Awards, including Best Musical. We know all the words to “There is Nothing Like a Dame” and “I’m Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair”. Following the performance, we will return to The Sherwood Inn for our traditional after theater buffet. The Sherwood loves hosting us, and we can be sure the chef will choose an excellent menu again this year. Look for the flyer accompanying this newsletter and make your reservations, noting the **reservation deadline of May 30th**!

Syracuse Mets

Let's welcome the Syracuse Mets to town with our annual Elfuns Family Day at the Ballpark. The Mets will host the Scranton Wilkes-Barre RailRiders on **Sunday July 14th** at 1:05 pm. Our package



includes a 200-level reserved seat, \$5 in concessions and a parking pass. This fun event includes Elfuns and extended family members, so collect your children and grandchildren and come up to the ballpark to enjoy sitting in the sun and watching a little baseball. And all of this for only \$12/person! Look for the flyer accompanying this newsletter and note the **reservation date of June 25th**.

Being Planned



Paul deLima Coffee Museum Tour and Lunch -

Plans are in the works for a tour and presentation at the museum located within the Cicero roasting plant, followed by a luncheon. Watch for details and a reservation form in the May newsletter.

GE DVDs

The two DVDs that the Liverpool Public Library produced about ten years ago, one on the history of ELECTRONICS PARK and one on the history of GE HEAVY MILITARY, are still available – either to borrow from any library in the Onondaga County Library System, or to purchase.



To borrow them log on to <http://catalog.onlib.org/polaris/> and search for LIVERPOOL LEGENDS ELECTRONICS PARK or LIVERPOOL LEGENDS GE HEAVY MILITARY. The results screen will allow you to reserve one and have it sent to your local library for pickup.

If you want to buy a copy to keep, they cost \$10 and you can stop by the Liverpool Public Library and see whether they have any in stock for purchase. Or, you can log on to www.studio118creative.com/liverpoollegends/, scroll down to ELECTRONICS PARK or GE HEAVY MILITARY and place an order for that DVD to be sent to your home (\$10 + postage).

Recent Public Service

Marv Hahn has been keeping his group busy doing repairs at Hope for Bereaved's Butterfly Garden of Hope in Onondaga Lake Park, installing Christmas lights in the garden, and installing Christmas lights at HFB's headquarters. Then, after Lights On The Lake recently closed for the season, the lights had to be removed. Planning for the 2019 holiday season is underway with the purchase of additional strings of LED lights to replace some of the existing older light strings.



L to R: Neal Schantz, Bob Ruth, Ed Brennan, Marv Hahn, Pete Capponi and Fred Wenthen

The work of Marv and the Elfuns has received attention in recent issues of Hope For Bereaved's Newsletter.

A Special thanks ...

* Marv Hahn & Elfuns Volunteers for decorating HOPE's entrance and putting holiday lights at the Butterfly Garden.



Our special thanks to **Marv Hahn**, a very loyal volunteer for repairing the railing on the Butterfly Garden gazebo stairs and staining the stairs and railing!

Health Insurance Update

We're now into 2019, some things have changed from 2018, and some haven't:

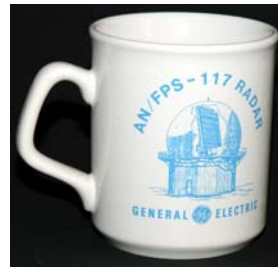
- New rates for Medicare supplemental coverage and your Part D – Prescription Drug Coverage kicked in on January 1st and you should have seen the effect of the new rates in your first 2019 bill. Rates vary from ZIP Code to ZIP Code and depending on the coverage you selected. But generally, the Medicare supplemental coverage went up a % or so, while the Drug Coverage may have gone up considerably more. The Drug Coverage costs in particular, vary widely from person-to-person.
- GE retirees continue receiving the \$1,000/person supplement to help pay for your supplemental medical coverage. Lockheed Martin retirees continue receiving a \$900/person supplement. **AND**, if you were a long service (at least 25 years of service) GE employee when GE Aerospace was sold, you'll continue receiving **BOTH** the GE and Lockheed Martin supplements.
- The outside firm used by both GE and Lockheed Martin to process claims and payments for the supplemental medical coverage has changed its name. What used to be **OneExchange** is now **Via Benefits**. The phone number remains the same at 1-855-873-0103 and the website is My.ViaBenefits.com/GE.
- VIA Benefits recommends that: 1) if you haven't already signed up for Direct Deposit you should do that to speed reimbursements, and 2) you should update them with your new Medicare Card number. They will continue to work with your old Social Security Number but if you don't give them the new Medicare Card number eventually there will be problems. VIA can be contacted at My.ViaBenefits.com/ge or by calling 1-855-873-0103.
- VIA Benefits updated the Reimbursement Request Form last year to preprint your name on the form and add a barcode to the form. You

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should have received a hard copy of the barcoded form last year. If you didn't (or did but lost it) you should call VIA Benefits or use their website to request a copy of the form.

- So, for GE retirees what worked for you in 2018 should work for you in 2019. For Lockheed Martin retirees that are receiving the \$1,000/person GE supplement **AND** the \$900/person Lockheed Martin supplement things are a bit more complex.
- Early in January VIA Benefits looks over your 2018 medical expenses and if there are any you have not been reimbursed for, they will immediately reimburse you for them, up to the \$900/person limit from Lockheed Martin funds. This happened early in January, automatic deposits or checks went out the second week in January and if you were to receive one you should have it by now. For most folks this results in your receiving a check (or deposit) for either \$900 or \$1,800.
- VIA Benefits then continues to reimburse you as you incur medical expenses in 2019 until the \$900/person supplement is used up. Once the Lockheed Martin funds have been exhausted VIA Benefits will start to reimburse you from the \$1,000/person GE funds. **BUT**, the switch to GE funds isn't automatic – you have to authorize VIA Benefits to begin using the GE funds. You do this by submitting a **Reimbursement Request Form** to VIA.

Remember These Programs?



Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors

SyracuseElfunSociety.org

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Chairperson	Carl Chermak	CChermak@aclara.com	315-637-0380
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Secretary	open		
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At Large	Neal Schantz	NealSchantz@gmail.com	315-652-6467
At Large	Pete Scalzo	none	315-457-0598