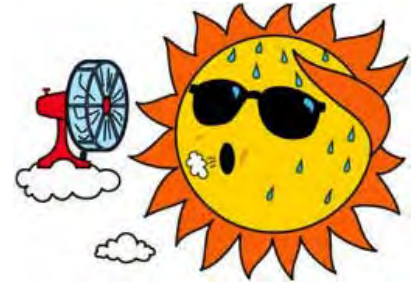


# Syracuse Elfun Society

## 2022 Summer Newsletter



We have been saddened to learn of the deaths of the following current or former members of the Syracuse Elfun Society:

- **Stephen Lloyd Kolb**, 73, much loved Husband, Father, and Grandfather passed away suddenly at his home in Ashville, NC on February 1, 2022.
- **John Francis Lepkowski**, 86, passed away peacefully with his family at his side on June 18, 2022.
- **Leonard "Len" C. Scott, Sr.**, 94 of Liverpool passed away peacefully on Monday, June 27, 2022, with his family at his side.
- **Richard J. "Dick" Simchik**, 86, of Sylvan Street, passed away Monday night, July 25, 2022, in Oneida Health Hospital, after a brief illness.

Complete obituaries for local individuals may be found online at [Syracuse.com/obituaries/Syracuse](http://Syracuse.com/obituaries/Syracuse).

## Chairman's Annual Report

Throughout the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Syracuse Elfun Society carefully traversed the new 'normal'. Elfuns enjoyed each other's company at the Family Day at the Ballpark, Rev Theater and Holiday



Luncheon. Last year we held our Annual Meeting on Zoom. This year we were able to meet in person at Coleman's on Wednesday June 8, 2022.

The Following is a summary of what was covered at the Annual Meeting:

We currently have **212** paid members on our roster. We began fiscal year 2021-2022 with \$5,800 in our treasury. Dues payments and interest were our major sources of income. With dues lowered to \$10 per member for one year, we ran a \$1,500 deficit. Assets at year-end include \$1,200 in 2022-2023 dues that have already been deposited. Our year-end financial situation is as follows:

<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$1,818
Events	\$2,855
Total	\$4,673
<u>Expenses</u>	
Events	\$2,650
PO Box	\$226
Postage &	

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Newsletter	\$2,679
Insurance	\$633
Total	\$6,188

Assets at year-end \$5,495

Three existing directors are up for reelection on July 1, 2022 for 3-year terms (Carl Chermak, Don MacLaughlin and Ray Terry). Ron Panetta joined the Board of Directors as our new Webmaster. The website looks great. Check it out at <https://www.syracuseelfunsociety.org>

*Carl Chermak*

## Social Events

On June 8, we held our first in-person annual meeting since 2019. Coleman's was happy to welcome us to their lovely dining room. We enjoyed traditional Irish food, capped off by Bailey's Mousse. Larry Flora was lucky enough to get the last serving of Guinness Beef Stew. Carl Chermak, chapter chair, gave a recap of the financial and social activity for the year. Steve Auyer, communications manager, brought numerous handouts of articles pertaining to GE and its history, including informative comic books. Steve has since emailed some of this material to our membership. We appreciate that Steve has combed the GE archives to keep our chapter informed and involved throughout this covid era.

Speaking of communications, Steve's efforts to keep us united have paid dividends. To our knowledge, a mere handful of active Elfun chapters remain. A few have an internet presence, (Southern California and Wisconsin) and some others hold luncheons or activities on a local basis. How lucky we are to remain as a chapter with a vibrant board, social activities, and frequent and informative communications, all of which are reflected on our website thanks to our new webmaster Ron Panetta. Go to [www.syracuseelfunsociety.org](https://www.syracuseelfunsociety.org) any time you need to read an archived newsletter, find an event flyer, or locate the contact information for an officer.

As we go to press, we are anticipating Elfun Family Day at the Ballpark on July 31<sup>st</sup>. We currently have 37 Elfuns and extended family members preparing to reunite, enjoy some sunshine and hot dogs, and cheer on the Mets. If we are lucky, we might see a major leaguer down on rehab. Auburn native Tim Locastro, outfielder for the Yankees, recently appeared here with the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Railriders, and we just missed Mets superstar pitcher Jacob deGrom. We will have a recap of the game, along with pictures, in the fall newsletter.

Come fall, we will spend a Thursday afternoon enjoying Broadway in the Finger Lakes. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, REV Theater will present a 2pm matinee of **Ain't Misbehavin'**. The theater has made extensive renovations, primarily to the air handling system, to enhance patron safety. Following the show, we will toe-tap (or perhaps drive) to the nearby Springside Inn for an after-theater dinner. The food was delicious the last time that we dined there, and we look forward to our return. The flyer is included with this newsletter, so mark your calendars and send in your reservations. We can't wait to see you. We hope to hold a holiday luncheon later in the year, and are waiting for some key elements to fall into place. Watch your inbox and the fall newsletter for updates.

*Cindy Chermak*

## In Case You Missed.....

During the last three months, the Syracuse Elfun Society e-mailed out copies of the following articles concerning GE that have appeared in various publications:

- May 22, 2022 – **“Jack Welch and the Rise Of C.E.O.s Behaving Badly” – The New York Times.** A not-very-positive review of Jack Welch's career and the mess he created at General Electric.
- June 28, 2022 – **“GE Chief Executive Larry Culp Takes Charge of Aviation Business” – The Wall Street Journal.** GE Aviation wasn't delivering the desired results, so Larry took

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charge.

- July 19, 2022 – “**GE Dubs Its Power Unit ‘Vernova’**” – **The Wall Street Journal**. What do you name a business than no one wants to buy?

For those members who do not receive the Syracuse Elfun Society Newsletter by e-mail, let us know of any of the above articles that you would like to receive in hard copy format and we’ll send them out.

*Steve Aujeer*

## GE’s “Comic Books”

There are many things we associate with General Electric: Jet Engines, TVs, Refrigerators and Dishwashers, Radar and Sonar Systems, Hair Dryers and even Electrical power meters. But Comic Books? Not so much.

Starting in 1945, and continuing through at least 1961, GE published a series of short booklets that highlighted the technology used in many of the products that GE produced. Because each booklet was limited to 16 pages, was printed in a 7.5” x 10” format and used a series of cartoon-like drawings, they were referred to as “Comic Books.” A sample page from one of the books is shown on page 4.

A partial list of the “books” is as follows:

- 1945 Adventures in Electricity – Electricity Generation
- 1946 Adventures in Electricity – Uses of Electricity
- 1947 Adventures in Electricity – X-Rays
- 1947 Adventures in Jet Propulsion
- 1948 Adventures in Electricity – - Electricity in Railroading
- 1948 Adventures Inside The Atom
- 1949 Adventure Into The Past
- 1949 Adventures in Electricity – light
- 1950 Adventures in Electricity – Television

- 1952 Adventure Into The Future
- 1952 Land Of Plenty
- 1953 Electricity Around Us
- 1953 Man Made Magic
- 1953 Network Of Power
- 1955 Adventures In Electronics (V1)
- 1955 Adventures in Electronics (V2)
- 1955 Inside The Atom
- 1957 Engineering In Your Future
- 1957 The Story Of Light
- 1959 Our Place In Space
- 1961 Adventures in Jet Power

Most of the books tell a story from the viewpoint of Johnny Powers, a teenager, and his older brother “Ed” who seems to know everything about the technology covered in that particular comic book, and who also has the contacts within GE so that he and Johnny can tour the various facilities.

As an example, the 1950 “**Adventures in Electricity – Television**” book, starts out with Ed taking Johnny through the studios of WRGB television in Schenectady. WRGB just happens to be GE’s pioneering TV station named after Dr. Walter R. G. Baker. Later pages take Johnny through the buildings at **Electronics Park** where televisions were designed and produced.

The 1959 “**Our Place In Space**” has Johnny learning about space satellites and the rockets that launch them into space. As the story progresses it touches on the technology being developed at GE’s: **Heavy Military Electronics & Defense Systems** in Syracuse; **Ordnance Department** in Pittsfield; **Light Military Electronics Department** in Utica; **Receiving Tube Department** in Owensboro, KY; **Aircraft Turbine Department** in Lynn, MA; **Missile & Space Vehicle Department** in Philadelphia and the **Flight Propulsion Laboratory** in Evendale, OH.

The comic books were printed on inexpensive, high-acid paper and have not withstood the test of time well. The formerly white paper has aged to a brown

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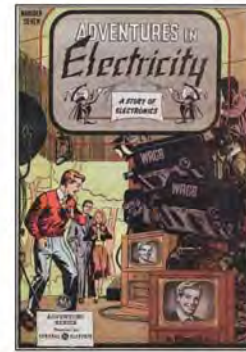
**GE Comic Books that have been scanned and copied to date. These are available from the Syracuse Elfun Society as noted on page 6.**



1947 Adventures in Electricity, X-Rays



1948 Adventures in Electricity, Railroading



1947 Adventures in Electricity, Television



1953 Man-Made Magic, Electricity Generation



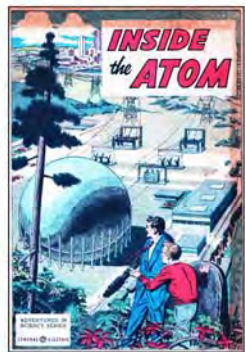
1953 Network Of Power - Electricity Transmission



1955 Adventures in Electronics - Version 1



1955 Adventures in Electronics - Version 2



1955 Inside The Atom



1957 Engineering In Your Future



1959 The Story Of Light



1959 Our Place In Space



1961 Adventures In Jet Power

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color and the pages are fragile – breaking and tearing if not handled carefully. However, the Syracuse Elfun Society has acquired copies of many of the comic books and is in the process of digitizing them.

To date, the 12 comic books shown on page 5 have been digitized and reprinted. We haven't reprinted them in large quantities due to the cost, but we do have enough to offer a few to members of the Syracuse Elfun Society on a first-come, first-served basis. If you see any of the books that appear of interest to you, send an e-mail to the editor ([steve.auyer@gmail.com](mailto:steve.auyer@gmail.com)) or call **315-451-7359** and identify the title(s) that most interests you. As long as our stock hasn't been exhausted we'll drop copies of the book(s) you have requested in the mail to you. Just be sure to list the full title of the book(s) you want to ensure that what you receive is what you wanted.

## Reader Feedback

Responding to several **GE comic books** I sent him during the process of writing an article about them that appears on the previous pages: *“Steve thanks for the GE "Comic Books". I have been trying to find the one I had but some how put it in a crate and can not find it. As I recall, it was meant to encourage students to think about careers in Engineering and hopefully GE. We distributed them to the schools to pass out. In fact, one summer we had the Guidance Counselor from Central Tech working in Human Resources so he could learn about the jobs we had and the qualifications. He could then better explain our careers to students and encourage them to pursue technical careers. This had to be in the 1968-69 time frame when I worked in Personnel at CSP#1. They were made just like a comic book. I don't remember seeing them after 1969.”* - **John Davern**

On **The Wall Street Journal** review of the book **“The Man Who Broke Capitalism”**: *“I just finished the book. Our son heard the author interviewed on NPR and bought me a copy. Quite an indictment on Jack and Welchism which kept the stock price rising*

*through layoffs, plant closing, outsourcing, stock buyback, cheaper labor, acquisitions, R&D reduction - anything to reduce costs and increase share value. And employees were a cost and NOT an asset. Turned management philosophy upside down from customers and employees first to shareholders first, at any cost.*

*The author gave Jack the credit for turning a lot of corporations to this new philosophy. People trained at and/or by GE became CEOs elsewhere and got a bump due to their pedigree, then, mostly, trashed the company. Boeing was one of the big names.*

*Isn't it interesting how we learn about this stuff after the fact, some of us way after the fact? When thinking about those Welch years, I was working, and my S&S was doing well. But there were those who didn't benefit and, I think, Syracuse seemed somewhat protected. Maybe it was Pag?*

*I'm old now and this stuff shouldn't bother me. I've done ok, good family, health not too bad. But it does bother me! But enough now, way more than enough.”* - **Art Johnson**

## Can You Smell It?

First, some history. The Popsicle was invented in 1905, near San Francisco by 11-year-old Frank Epperson. Young Epperson had mixed soda powder and water with a wooden stirring stick and forgotten it outside overnight. It was an especially cold evening, and when Epperson went out the next morning, he found his drink had frozen solid around the stirring stick. Rather than waste it, he decided to simply lick the frozen drink off the stick. He called his accidental discovery an Epsicle ice pop and made more to sell around his neighborhood.

Epperson's children began calling his invention a “Popsicle,” creating the famous brand name still known today.

Today, the Popsicle brand is a household name and continues to sell billions of frozen treats every year.

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In its never-ending search for perfection, the US Postal Service decided to honor the Popsicle by issuing a special “Scratch-and-Sniff” stamp to honor the Popsicle. On June 20, 2018, the USPS issued America’s first scratch-and-sniff stamps.

Scratch-and-sniff technology actually dates back to the 1960s. At the time, researchers at 3M and NCR Corporation sought improved ways to hold ink in tiny pockets on paper for use in carbon copies and register receipts.

The process they developed was known as “microencapsulation” and it was soon discovered

that it could contain scented oils. When put under pressure, by a scratch for instance, they would release small particles of the scented oil. Scratch-and-sniff was soon popular in children’s books and in the marketing of toiletries, and became especially widespread in the 1980s.

The Syracuse Elfun Society has managed to obtain a few of the Scratch-and-Sniff stamps and if you receive this newsletter through the USPS, the envelope will use one of these stamps for part of the postage. See whether Scratch-and-Sniff stamps have withstood the test of time during the 4 years since they were printed. *Enjoy the aroma. Do not try to eat the stamp. Have A Happy Summer!*



**Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Individual</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Chairperson	Carl Chermak	CarlChermak@gmail.com	315-637-0380
Vice-Chairperson	open		
Secretary	open		
Treasurer	Joe Kinzel	jakinzel@msn.com	315-303-7347
Webmaster	Ron Panetta	ron@panman.us	315-451-4681
Database	Bob Ruth	RuthRob@msn.com	315-451-0685
Communications	Steve Auyer	Steve.Auyer@gmail.com	315-451-7359
Seniors	Fred Wenthen	Fred.Wenthen@gmail.com	315 637-5577
Social Events	Cindy Chermak	Chermak@msn.com	315-637-0380
Work Projects	Marv Hahn	MarvH@twcny.rr.com	315-699-2621
At Large	Don MacLaughlin	donaldjmaclaughlin@gmail.com	315-652-5792
At Large	Ray Terry	raygterry@gmail.com	315-677-3008
At Large	Nick Vaccaro	nvaccaro@twcny.rr.com	315-457-3632
At Large	Pete Scalzo	none	315-457-0598

# October 6<sup>th</sup> - Broadway In The Finger Lakes

"Ain't Misbehavin'", 2pm at the REV Theater,

Dinner following at the Springside Inn!

A Syracuse Elfun Society Special Event



**Ain't Misbehavin'** is a tribute to the music of Thomas Wright "Fats" Waller who was an American jazz pianist, organist, composer, violinist, singer, and comedic entertainer. His innovations in the Harlem stride style laid much of the basis for modern jazz piano. Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical, **Ain't Misbehavin'** opened on Broadway in 1978 and is now playing at the REV Theater in Auburn.

After attending the **October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2pm performance of Ain't Misbehavin'** we will have dinner at the **Springside Inn**. Dinner will include choice of Roast Beef, Baked Haddock or Chicken Farce (stuffed boneless breast), accompanied by garden salad, fresh vegetables, mashed potatoes, rolls, dessert of the day and coffee or tea.



Package price for the musical and dinner is \$75/person for dues-paying Elfun and spouse or guest. Surviving Spouses also receive the package price.

Questions? Cindy's phone is (315) 637-0380, her e-mail is Chermak@msn.com

**-Tear off & return by August 31<sup>st</sup> with SASE-**

Mail to: Cindy Chermak  
10 The Orchard  
Fayetteville, NY 13066

Checks payable to "**Syracuse Elfun Society**"

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

My E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Choice:  Beef  Fish  Chicken

Remember! Enclose a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) - tickets will be mailed to your home prior to the performance. Reservations must be received by August 31<sup>st</sup>!

\$\_\_\_\_\_ enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$75/person.  Yes Cindy, I did enclose a SASE!