



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

- William Arnold Haase, 91, of Jamesville, NY passed away on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at the Nottingham in Jamesville, NY.
- Thomas L, McCall passed after a brief illness on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Tom’s family enjoyed celebrating his 95th birthday in January 2024.
- Donald Stehle died March 15, 2024 at the age of 92.
- Ed Karpinski passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 23, 2024 with his wife by his side. He recently celebrated his 91st birthday surrounded by family.
- Howard E. Towlson, 87 years old, of Baldwinsville, NY passed away peacefully on the evening of November 29, 2023.
- Harry M. Curley passed away peacefully to be with his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, April 23, 2024,
- Peter R. "Pete" Daino (91), a lifetime resident of Syracuse, NY, peacefully passed away on April 25, 2024, surrounded by his family after courageously battling dementia.
- Francis David Gentile, 90, of Auburn, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at his home.

Complete obituaries for local individuals can usually be found at <https://obits.syracuse.com/us/obituaries/syracuse/browse>.

Note: Since it is not possible for the board of directors to keep tabs of all member passings, especially when the notices weren’t in the local Syracuse Post Standard, we request that, if you are aware of a member passing, please notify a board member so we can include the announcement in our newsletter. Thanks.

Chairman's Column

The Syracuse Elfun Society held its Annual Meeting at the Spinning Wheel Restaurant at Noon on Thursday April 25, 2024. It’s hard to believe that this was our 10th Annual Meeting as the Syracuse Elfun Society. Following is a summary of what was covered during the meeting:

We began the fiscal year 2023-2024 with \$3,898 in our treasury. Our major source of income was dues payments, and the largest expenses were printing and mailing, liability insurance and the PO box. Our projected year end statement follows:

<u>Income</u>	
Dues	\$3,465
Total Income	\$3,465
<u>Expenses</u>	
Event Subsidies	\$ 934
PO Box	\$ 274
Post Newsletter	\$2,210
Insurance	\$ 836
Software	\$ 197
Misc.	\$ 100
Prepaid Event Deposits	\$1,280
Total Expenses	\$5,831
Assets at year-end	\$1,532

Although that seems like a steep drop in assets for one year, keep in mind that \$1,280 has been paid as deposits for events that will occur in 2024-2025 and, if we meet our minimum attendance guarantees, we will get that back in event revenues. To ensure that we have sufficient operating capital, the members in attendance voted to increase the dues from \$20 to \$25 for 2024-2025.

Currently The Syracuse Elfun Society has 190 members (157 regular and 33 complimentary (the Liverpool Village Museum, other Elfun Chapters and surviving spouses)).

Congratulations to Cindy Chermak, Gary Gates, Joe Kinzel and Bob Ruth who were unanimously re-elected by ‘mail in’ ballot for 3-year terms as directors.

Our website is www.syracuseelfunsociety.org. You can see information on membership, how to contact chapter officers, download past and present newsletters and view details on our social events. Ron Panetta set up and maintains our website. ‘Communications’ is a very important part of our chapter’s mission.

Our chapter publishes 4 newsletters per year plus supplements with information about chapter activities and feature articles. Some of the events that we conducted in 2023-2024 included, Syracuse Mets Baseball, "Beautiful" at the Merry Go Round Theater, lunch with the County Executive, the Holiday Party and our Annual Meeting. All the events were well attended and we look forward to having similar events next year. We will again visit the Syracuse Mets, see the Jersey Boys at the Merry-Go-Round Theater followed by dinner at Lasca's in Auburn and have our Holiday Party at the Bella Domani. The next step is for you to provide Cindy with suggestions for new events.

Thanks to all who made this year successful and I look forward to getting together with you in 2024-2025.

Congratulations Sister Colette

Many members of our Elfun Chapter have volunteered on construction and maintenance projects at Francis House, and Sister Colette has been our primary contact. She is the face of Francis House and a great source of comfort to the residents. We congratulate Sister Colette as she celebrates her 70th "Platinum" Jubilee this year.

Social Events

By Cindy Chermak

Annual Meeting and Lunch at The Spinning Wheel April 25, 2024

Our group of 34 gathered at The Spinning Wheel for a buffet lunch and a recap of our previous Elfun year. Check Chair Carl Chermak's article for the particulars of the business meeting.

Our speaker was Connor Williams, Historian at Great Camp Sagamore in Raquette Lake. He presented "Greetings From the Great Camps: The History of the Adirondack Vacation". Sagamore is notably the "anti-Newport" due to its remote location and architecture consisting primarily of five natural ingredients: spruce, cedar, stone, glass, and red paint. Raquette Lake itself is the largest body of water enclosed entirely within the Adirondack Park.

Connor advised us that Great Camp Sagamore is a national historic landmark, not just a state or local one, because national events contributed to the growth of the great camps. After the Civil War and the end of slavery, free labor gave way to wage labor, a development which allowed the business owners to amass money, lots of it. Hence the rise of the Gilded Age. New York City, at the time, was crowded, full of horses and some close living quarters, and prone to the spread of disease. The wealthy had money to build large remote estates, and the growth of railroads enabled them to escape to the woods, so they did. This unique combination of organic architecture and proximity to nature constituted a whole new way of vacationing for the wealthy.

Sagamore was built by WW Durant and completed in 1897. Durant soon encountered financial difficulties, and Alfred Vanderbilt purchased the property in 1901. It must be nice to have money - Mrs. Vanderbilt required that the color of her oak tables match the maple syrup harvested on the estate! Through 1954 Sagamore via

the Vanderbilts hosted a variety of Broadway, Hollywood and Washington, DC notables.

The property was then gifted to Syracuse University and used for conferences for over 20 years, until preservationists acquired it and developed it into today's combination of nature retreat, museum, and educational institution. There are numerous public tours in the summer months. Go visit if you have the opportunity.

Thank you, Connor, for such an interesting presentation.

Broadway in the Finger Lakes June 19, 2024

Reservations have closed for our outing to "Jersey Boys" and dinner at Lasca's. Lasca's is an Auburn landmark and word is that the banquet house is adept at hosting after theater dinner for Rev Theater groups. Let's hope so! We will report on our day in the fall newsletter.

Elfun Family Day at the Ballpark July 14, 2024

Reservations close on June 26 for our afternoon game. It is great fun to gather in the Left Field Terrace to mingle and watch the Mets. The ticket package includes the premium ticket, parking, and \$5 per person in concessions. Here is the Mets information about the Kids Eat Free promotion. *"Friendly Honda Family Sunday Policy—Kids Eat Free policy is that children 12 and under will receive a "Kids Eat Free" voucher upon entry. Kids can redeem their vouchers for (1) 12 oz. Coca-Cola fountain drink, (1) bag of chips, (1) kids Hofmann hot dog, and (1) kids Perry's ice cream cup. Don't forget to stick around and run the bases after each Sunday day game, Kids Run the Bases is presented by West Herr Chevrolet of East Syracuse."* This makes a nice family outing. Gather your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws, and other family members, send in your reservation, and enjoy this always popular summer event. We mail your tickets to you, so include a large self-addressed stamped envelope to ensure that they get to you. By the way, our Elfun luck guarantees either the most beautiful day of the summer or drenching rain!

Holiday Luncheon December 9, 2024

Save The Date! Make sure to schedule your medical appointments around our holiday get-together. Our daytime luncheon will again be held at Bella Domani on Taft Road. Last year the food was good, and the consideration and care they took with our group members was excellent. We will gather for a brief social time and then partake of the holiday buffet. Watch for the flyer in the fall newsletter, and plan to celebrate the holiday season with your Elfun friends.

Dues are Due

The upcoming Syracuse Elfun Society dues year runs from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. It's time again to renew your membership. Dues for the coming year are \$25.00. Regular members will receive a yellow supplement to this newsletter. Please fill out the questionnaire in the supplement, include your payment and mail both to our PO Box. Surviving spouses do not have to pay dues but you must fill out the questionnaire in the pink supplement and mail it to our PO Box if you

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would like to continue to receive our newsletter.

Pituffik Space Base

Thule Air Base, the Department of Defense's northernmost installation, has been renamed to recognize Greenlandic cultural heritage and better reflect its role in the U.S. Space Force. Following a ceremony held April 6, the installation is now known as Pituffik Space Base.

Following is a story written by one of our members, Harry Heilman, recollecting his experiences at Thule over 60 years ago.

76.3130° N, -68.4221° W

June 25, 1950 I was serving aboard LST 533 moored at a Boston Navy pier. The 533 had 550 barrels of high-octane aviation fuel aboard. I had the morning "deck/gangway" watch. Around 9:30 the ship's Master-at-Arms ask for my 45, inserted an ammunition clip, returned the gun, didn't say a word, just walked away. The watch was NEVER given live ammunition. What was going on? I learned later of the Korean "police action". My 3 years Navy enlistment was extended by 1 year. The aviation fuel was delivered to the Thule, Greenland US Airforce weather station 695 miles north of the Arctic Circle, at 76.3130 N, -68.4221 W

Thule Air Base construction began in 1951 and was completed in 1953. On 6 June 1951 an armada of 120 ships sailed from Norfolk Naval Station. On board were 12,000 men and 300,000 tons of cargo. They arrived at Thule on 9 July 1951. Construction, aided by continuous daylight in summer, took place around the clock.

Construction of The Thule Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) network started in 1958, and achieved Initial Operational Capability (IOC) 30 September 1960. GE's contribution was four AN/FPS 50 surveillance radars. On 5 October 1960, when Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Premier, was in New York, radar returns during Thule moonrise, produced false alarms. The great power/aperture of the AN/FPS 50 radar allowed it to detect reflections from the Moon 238,855 miles away. Changing FPS-50 frequency every 2 seconds (less than the round-trip Earth-Moon travel time) eliminated reception of moon echoes and echoes beyond artificial satellite orbits.

Hostile missile threats are automatically sent to the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. My first engineering design assignment, in 1958, was an Automatic Gain Circuit for the AN/FPS 50 radar receiver. Ref; 1) Radars for the Detection and Tracking of Ballistic Missiles, 2) Ballistic Missile Early Warning Systems, 3) Thule Site J

In the 1980s the BMEWS RCA AN/FPS 49 radar antenna fiberglass dome burned to radar building roof. The oil driven 49 antenna, waveguide, power & signal cables and electronics were given slimy oily coat. Coaxial cables and electronics were cleaned, and the radar reassembled. The FPS 49 site [ITT-Gilfillan maintenance](#) techs couldn't bring the radar to reliable operation, and RCA would not send RCA personnel to Thule to assist. Perhaps the reason was that a RCA computer was never certified as meeting contract performance requirements (-\$ for RCA). But the Airforce and ITT-Gilfillan used the computer. Or perhaps RCA was pushing phased array technology.

GE sales, looking to enhance GE prestige with Airforce, offered two GE engineers with AN/FPS 49 experience (Jim G and Harry H) to trouble shoot RCA's radar. ITT-Gilfillan [maintenance](#) personnel didn't have the technical competence to fulfill their contractual requirements. GE had AN/FPS 49s operating at Shemya, Diyarbakir, and Subic Bay.

Our first working day at Thule BMEWS site Jim asked for a bore-site tower signal. I found one ITT-G tech soldering suspected cold solder joints; his test equipment was a volt/ohm meter. Cabling and electronic assemblies had been "cleaned" in the site cafeteria dishwasher. Commercial dishwasher rinse dishes at 82 c; alloy tin-lead solder melts at 188 c; mill-spec components are required to operate -55 to +125 c. Seems a safe way to clean. Subjecting cables and electronic to 60 c temperature increase, and keeping it there during the 5-minute wash cycle softened solder, and solder cold flowed forming "cold-solder-joints".

Radar target echoes are micro volt signals buried in sky and receiver noise. Resistance in CSJ connections increases receiver noise. Easiest solution is re-solder all connections before and around the first 2 receiver amplifier circuits. Trouble-shooting require at least a 425 MHz signal source, frequency spectrum analyzer, oscilloscope with 30 MHz capability and a volt/ohm meter. A radar smart manager would have this test equipment at the radar as it was re-assembled after the "wash". Add a smart tech and a bore-site tower signal and----. It took 3 days to get all the necessary test equipment.

Day 3 ITT-G solder tech said we (GE) were spies gathering intelligence so GE could under-bid ITT-Gilfillan for the site maintenance contract. Could this be reason it took 3 days to get needed receiver test equipment, and for Jim not having a bore-site signal?

As a "spy", I learned ITT-G paid for a 60-hour work week and any additional time to an 80-hour week was casual time. I told my "solder tech" that GE paid their radar techs for an 80-hour work week. No casual time! A GE tech would not take a 20-hour pay cut to work at Thule. My spying also uncovered the reason there wasn't a [bore-site signal](#). Initially we were told [the bore-site signal amplifier](#) was waiting a critical component from the states. Actually, a bulldozer "cleaning up" around the building severed the coax cable connecting the bore-site signal amplifier to the bore-site tower.

Day 5 I was given a heads-up to attend a progress meeting. We were GE "spy's" needing timely ITT-G response to needed test equipment and vital bore-site tower signal. We had no significant progress to report. As a GE engineer trouble shooting Airforce radar, at Airforce's request, I felt obligated to report radar status directly to site Airforce, not to ITT-G management. The meeting members were an ITT-G manager, a couple techs, and GE, no Airforce present. When asked about radar status I said I would be reporting to GE Syracuse that I waited 3 days for necessary test equipment and at day 5 there still was no bore-site signal; and the problem wasn't component failure in the bore-site signal amplifier, as alleged, but resulted from a bulldozer, cleaning up around the radar building, cutting the coax cable between signal amplifier and bore-site tower. The ITT-G manager had a startled, surprised, facial expression. GE's progress report was a list of reasons for GE's poor progress.

I was bluffing. I didn't have a communication path to Syracuse. One doesn't just pick up a phone on a SAC airbase and discuss the secret status of a BMEWS Radar.

Day 6 there was a bore-site tower signal, and 2 solder techs to repair CSJ that test equipment identified and isolated. Resoldering [delta azimuth](#), [delta elevation](#), and [sum](#) receiver cables allowed using the 425 MHz bore-site signal to compare azimuth, elevation, and sum receiver signal amplitudes. Resistance in signal path solder connections were easily found and repaired. At mid-day 9 the AN/FPS 49 radar was operational. Did I find all cold solder joints? Don't bet on it. But if some remained, they didn't affect radar performance.

GE Syr had a small charted airplane waiting, at an airfield close to McGuire AFB where our cold, noisy, MAT 130 C return flight landed, to take us home.

Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors

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At-Large	Bob Ruth	ruthrob@msn.com	315-200-1321

Looking For A Job.....

..... or have a friend who is? It turns out that Lockheed Martin makes it easy to find job openings in the company.



Lockheed Martin's VECTOR STAR newsletter is sent to employees, retirees, and just about anyone who asks to be added to the e-mail list. Included in a recent newsletter was an article discussing the many job openings across the company.

By clicking on the link <https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-us/careers/index.html> you are taken to a Lockheed Martin website that allows you to search for job openings across the company, by a keyword (maybe **Radar Engineer?**), or a location (maybe **Syracuse, NY?**), or a general area. And up will pop a listing of all open positions that meet that criteria.

As of early May this year, Lockheed Martin in Syracuse had a number of open positions - a total of 57. As you would expect the positions are highly technical - here are a few samples:

ASIC & FPGA Design Engineering Manager - 2 openings
 Deputy Program Manager - Subsurface Electronic Warfare
 Engineering Project Manager - Army Radars
 Lead Digital Hardware Engineer
 Lead Radar System Integration & Test Engineer
 Senior Staff Analog Development Electrical Engineer
 Staff System Engineer - Electronic Warfare

And on, and on, and on. An e-mail to Carl Chermak will get you a copy of the list as it existed early in May. But why not use the job search feature described above to perform your own search and see what's going on in Syracuse? You might find a position that looks so attractive that you think about coming out of retirement - or not!