

# Syracuse Elfun Society

## 2025 Summer Newsletter



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

- Charles Granville Simpson, 91, passed away peacefully in Ocoee, FL on September 18, 2024 with family by his side.
- Ronald Christian Madsen, 88, of Baldwinsville, NY, passed away on Monday, April 7, 2025 at Syracuse Home.
- Clifford Oakley Hull, Jr., 94, of Baldwinsville, NY, known to family and childhood friends as "Oak" and later as "Cliff," passed away peacefully on Friday April 11, 2025 at Syracuse Home.
- Thomas "Fred" Wenthien, 89, of Fayetteville, NY, went home to be with our Lord and Savior on April 12, 2025 after a hard-fought battle with leukemia.

Note: Since it is not possible for the board of directors to keep tabs on 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

Recently, a friend received an award; however, the item he received seemed more like a promotional gift than a trophy. This led me to reflect on some of the promotional items I have collected over the years. Cindy and I worked for a start-up business in Philadelphia, HVBI (High Voltage Breakers Inc.), a joint venture between GE and Hitachi.

As a young company, we had fantastic giveaway items, such as a scissors/paper cutter tool with our logo and a sumo wrestler toy. Not many people can claim to own a Mho tie from the GE relay department (then located in Philadelphia), but I can. Shifting to my time designing power transformers in Pittsfield, MA, I was gifted a couple of power transformer trivets. Very few still exist, and I treasure the ones I have.



When I relocated to Salem, VA, I joined another GE start-up, AC Adjustable Speed Drives. To engage our audience during sales meetings, we produced short films in which we portrayed the AC Aces. Although the films no longer exist, I have the still photos from our shoots.



Upon arriving in Syracuse, I was fascinated by the meter lamp displayed in a Niagara Mohawk manager's office. Little did I know that 27 years later, I would receive one myself from my GE Meter colleagues. Many of you have similar keepsakes that you value. Send me some photos, and we'll feature you in a follow-up article. Your fellow Elfuns would love to learn about your collection.



## Annual Meeting

The Syracuse Elfun Society's Annual Meeting took place at the Camillus Elks Lodge on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, presided over by Chairman Carl Chermak. A brief moment of silence was observed to honor the Syracuse Elfun members who passed away during the previous year. Carl then reviewed the financial standing of the Syracuse Elfun Society. We began the fiscal year 2024-2025 with \$1,540 in our treasury. Dues payments and event deposits were our primary sources of revenue, while the PO box, liability insurance, and 'printing and mailing' represented our largest costs. Below is our projected year-end statement:

### Income

Dues	\$2,976
Event Deposits	<u>\$4,867</u>
Total Income	\$7,843

### Expenses

Event Costs Current Year	\$3,975
PO Box	\$ 282
Postage and Printing	\$1,162
Liability Insurance	\$ 836
Prepaid Event Deposits	<u>\$ 888</u>
Total Expenses	\$7,143

Assets at year-end \$2,240

The Board of Directors resolved to maintain the dues at \$25 per member to ensure adequate operating capital.

Congratulations to Ray Terry, Don MacLaughlin, Ron Paneta, and Carl Chermak, who were unanimously re-elected via mail-in ballot to three-year terms on the Board of Directors. The chapter is seeking a volunteer to fill the vacant Senior Representative position.

There are currently 133 members of the Syracuse Elfun Society (113 regular and 20 complimentary members), representing a 28% decrease from the previous year. We appreciate Ron Panetta for leading our

membership initiatives. Ron also oversees the Syracuse Elfun Society's website, located at [www.syracuseelfunsociety.org](http://www.syracuseelfunsociety.org). This past year, the Syracuse Elfun Society distributed five newsletters and one special mailing. Our activities were well attended, and we hope to host similar events this year. On June 3, we will visit the Merry-Go-Round Theater to see Jesus Christ Superstar, preceded by lunch at the Sherwood Inn. We will then attend the Syracuse Mets game on July 13. Our Holiday Party is scheduled for December 11, 2025, at Tassone's Wine Garden. We are always looking for new ideas to enhance or add to our planned events.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of the previous year, and I look forward to seeing you in 2025-2026.

## Social Events *by Cindy Chermak*

### Annual Meeting and Social Lunch

Wednesday April 30, Camillus Elks Lodge

Our group of 18 began the 2025 social season with a review of last year's activities and financials, a preview of upcoming activities, and a nice lunch. See Carl's article for the particulars and the status of our Chapter.

### Broadway in the Finger Lakes

Tuesday June 3, Lunch at The Sherwood Inn and Jesus Christ Superstar at Rev Theater

For many years, we held our after-theater dinner at The Sherwood Inn, until Covid altered our outings. It was a delight to finally return. Our group is decreasing in size, so the Inn offered 21 of us a light lunch. The West Porch was a beautiful

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setting, offering us a view of the lake and the gardens. You can't go wrong when the menu consists of the Sherwood Classic dishes, complete with a Viennese dessert display from Patisserie. Yummy.



We are all familiar with Jesus Christ Superstar and certainly can sing along with the well-known songs. The opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice originally debuted as a concept album before opening on Broadway in 1971. Rev Theater last performed the show in 1981. The Rev's poll of our audience members revealed that only one had attended way back then - our own Gloria Brennan! The show remains fresh and compelling, and it was our fortune that this season's performance is directed by Donald Rice, son of Tim Rice. It was a wonderful day in the Finger Lakes, and we can't wait to choose our show for the 2026 season.

## Elfun Family Day at the Ballpark

Sunday July 13, NBT Stadium

The Mets look forward to welcoming us back and have again reserved the Left Field Terrace for us. This fantastic event includes Elfun,

spouse/guest and extended family members. We all enjoy seeing adult children and grandchildren each summer. Our opponent is the Lehigh Valley IronPigs, Triple-A affiliate of the Phillies. Many years we are fortunate enough to see a major league player down on our level for some rehab. Maybe this year too... Our package, including the game ticket, parking pass and concession voucher is a real bargain. The flyer is included with this newsletter. We have a short reservation window, so gather your extended family and send your reservation by June 25. Watch for pictures and a recap of the outing in the next newsletter.

## Holiday Luncheon

Thursday December 11, Tassone's Wine Garden in Baldwinsville

It isn't even summer yet, but the holiday spirit is already upon us and we have scheduled our holiday luncheon. Save the date! Tassone's will provide us with a festive buffet in the dining room, which will be decked out in holiday decor. Watch for further details and the reservation flyer in the next newsletter.

## Tentative Boat Ride Event

We are investigating a boat ride later in the summer, perhaps the new Syracuse Boat Tour on the Seneca River, or a celebration of the 200th Birthday of the Erie Canal at the Camillus Erie Canal Park. Details and the reservation flyer will follow as we make plans.

## Dues are Due

The upcoming Syracuse Elfun Society dues year runs from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. It's time to renew your membership again. Dues for the coming year are \$25.00. Regular members will receive a yellow supplement with this newsletter. Please fill out the questionnaire in the supplement, include your payment, and mail both to our PO Box. Surviving spouses are not required to pay dues, but you must complete the questionnaire in the pink supplement and mail it to our PO Box if you wish to continue receiving our newsletter.

# Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors

www.syracuseelfunsociety.org

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Individual</u></b>	<b><u>E-mail</u></b>	<b><u>Phone</u></b>
Chairperson	Carl Chermak	<a href="mailto:carlchermak@gmail.com">carlchermak@gmail.com</a>	315-436-8696
Vice-Chairperson	open		
Secretary	open		
Treasurer	Joe Kinzel	<a href="mailto:jakinzel@msn.com">jakinzel@msn.com</a>	315-303-7347
Webmaster & Membership	Ron Panetta	<a href="mailto:ron@panman.us">ron@panman.us</a>	315-451-4681
Communications	Steve Auyer	<a href="mailto:steve.auyer@gmail.com">steve.auyer@gmail.com</a>	315-451-7359
Seniors	open		
Social Events	Cindy Chermak	<a href="mailto:chermak@msn.com">chermak@msn.com</a>	315-637-0380
At-Large	Gary Gates	<a href="mailto:glgates@windstream.net">glgates@windstream.net</a>	315-673-4879
At-Large	Don MacLaughlin	<a href="mailto:donaldjmacLaughlin@gmail.com">donaldjmacLaughlin@gmail.com</a>	315-652-5792
At-Large	Ray Terry	<a href="mailto:raygterry@gmail.com">raygterry@gmail.com</a>	315-677-3008
At-Large	Nick Vaccaro	<a href="mailto:nvaccaro@twcnny.rr.com">nvaccaro@twcnny.rr.com</a>	315-457-3632
At-Large	Pete Scalzo	none	315-457-0598
At-Large	Bob Ruth	<a href="mailto:ruthrob@msn.com">ruthrob@msn.com</a>	315-632-4212

## GE in the News

It has been over a year since the GE spin-off into three separate companies was completed. Below are a few recent clippings from the companies' press releases.

### GE Aerospace

- GE Aerospace announced plans to invest nearly \$1 billion in its U.S. manufacturing and technology to enhance production, support the future of flight and hire approximately 5,000 U.S. workers.
- GE Aerospace is offsetting tariff impact by optimizing operations, leveraging existing programs and strategies, taking measures to control cost, and implementing pricing actions.

Additional information about GE Aerospace can be found at <https://www.geaerospace.com/news>

### GE Vernova

- GE Vernova plans to invest nearly \$600 million in U.S. factories and facilities over the next two years, expecting to create more than 1,500 new factory and engineering jobs in the U.S. Expansions at U.S. factories will help meet the surging customer demand for electricity equipment both at home and abroad. Investments will focus on gas power, grid, nuclear, and offshore wind manufacturing sites.
- GE Vernova's world-class Advanced Research Center in Niskayuna, NY, plans to grow as a leading energy innovation hub while accelerating cutting-edge energy technology development.

Additional information about GE Versova can be found at <https://www.gevernova.com/news>

### GE HealthCare

- GE HealthCare reported strong financial results for the first quarter of 2025, with total company orders increasing 10% organically year over year.
- GE HealthCare is highlighting new AI-enabled solutions, such as CleaRecon DL for 3D reconstruction in interventional suites and Flyrcado for enhanced detection of coronary artery disease.

GE HealthCare announced FDA approval of Pediatric Indication of Optison Ultrasound Enhancing Agent.

Additional information about GE Healthcare can be found at <https://www.gehealthcare.com>