



Chairman's Column

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

- Joseph L. Chovan, 88, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on September 30, 2025. Joe worked for General Electric in Lynn, MA, and Schenectady, NY, before moving to Syracuse and marrying Edna Cecile Valloze in 1965.
- Neal Allan Schantz, 92, of Satellite Beach, Florida, passed away on October 3, 2025. Prior to moving to Florida, Neil was an active member of our Board of Directors and was named the Syracuse Chapter's 'Elfun of the Year' in 2015.
- Saverio "Sam" F. Bevacqua, 96, of Fulton, passed away at home with his family on February 3rd, 2026. Sam had an illustrious 37-year career at General Electric, where he was the co-developer of the first-solid state visible light laser in 1962.

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.



We have a rather long driveway at my house, which has a pull-off so that I can park my car outside the garage. I can look out the front window to remotely start my car, especially when the temperature outside is minus 8 degrees Fahrenheit, as it was this morning.

Reindeer love this weather. These guys, from Naples, NY, [Live Reindeer | My Site](#), visited the Syracuse Winter Fair last weekend. By the way, their names are Cindy (the one with the blue jacket) and Cindy Lou Who. I am including these pictures so our members, who live in warmer weather climates, can reminisce about what winter in Syracuse used to be like. Seriously, I look forward to seeing you this spring at the Annual Meeting. I will share the state of the chapter and our guest speakers should be awesome. Hopefully, the temperature will be above freezing by then.

Holiday Party 2026

2026 Social Events

by Cindy Chermak



Mother Nature frowned on our holiday luncheon on December 11, 2025. The weather was terrible, but fortunately, we were able to postpone the lunch to the next day. Many thanks to the chef at Tassone's Wine Garden. He was in the restaurant at 8 am, preparing our roast beef, when we called to postpone. He ably coordinated the new schedule with the owner while saving our partially prepared meal. Carl said the roast beef, eaten the next day, was incredibly tender and delicious. Maybe an extra day makes for tender roast beef. Once we established the rescheduled date, we began contacting everyone to alert them to sit out the snowstorm and plan to lunch on Friday. We reached everyone except Lonnie and Andy Rasi. They indeed showed up at Tassone's to find an empty function room. Here's a nice photo of Andy all alone, waiting for us to join him! The good thing is that Elfuns know how to turn lemons into lemonade... they stayed and enjoyed a delicious lunch, then returned for our group luncheon on Friday. In the end, we all arrived safely on Friday and enjoyed our traditional holiday gathering. Rose Phillips won the door prize. We went away full of the holiday spirit and with a story to tell. That said, we are thinking of scheduling the luncheon in early November 2026 to have a little more flexibility.



Even the snowbirds among us are ready for the cold and snow to end. Locate your calendars and save the dates for our upcoming spring and summer outings. Further details and reservation flyers will be included in the spring newsletter.

Annual Meeting and Lunch at Vito's in East Syracuse

Thursday, May 7, at 11:30 am
Speaker - Jeff Brown, Executive Director at OCWA
Guest - Christina Burtis, Director of Public Affairs at OCWA

Join us for our traditional annual introductory social event. All Elfuns and guests are welcome. The day includes a brief annual meeting, during which Carl will recap 2025 and discuss plans for 2026. We will be joined by two guests from OCWA, Jeff Brown, Executive Director, and Christina Burtis, Director of Public Affairs. Following lunch, Jeff will offer his insights into the recent water main break and the month-long mandatory conservation effort in the Eastern suburbs, with an opportunity for our questions. This should be a timely and interesting view of our water infrastructure. With our smaller group size, we will arrange a Dutch treat luncheon rather than our traditional pre-ordered banquet lunch. Vito's has reserved a cozy room for us, and the extensive menu ranges from sandwiches at \$13 all the way to seafood at \$25. There is a delicious meal at an attractive price for everyone.

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Elfun Family Day at the Ballpark

Sunday, June 7, at 1:05 pm
Syracuse Mets vs Scranton/Wilkes-Barre
RailRiders

Our annual Mets outing remains a popular and well-attended multi-generational family event. The Mets will host us in our usual seating in the Left Field Terrace. We have scheduled a bit earlier in the year in hopes of avoiding the scorching 92-degree day we had in 2025. Gather your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and other family members to cheer on our home team.

Broadway in the Finger Lakes

Wednesday, August 19, at 2:00 pm
"Carousel" at Merry-Go-Round Playhouse in
Auburn

Here is another perennial favorite. We will attend the matinee of "Carousel". Our group ticket price is \$70, a nice saving over the least cost individual senior ticket of \$83. What a bargain! We will plan a post-theater dinner, likely a Dutch treat visit to The Sherwood Inn.

Potential Bonus Outing

Cortland Repertory Theater at Little York
Lake Theater and Pavilion
Dutch Treat Dinner at Bob's Barbeque

The summer theater at Little York Lake is intimate and casual, with the production in a beautiful pavilion seating fewer than 300. Every seat is close to the action. Bob's Barbeque is 5 minutes down the road and offers a picnic setting with ample barbeque and all the fixings. Our best choices appear to be "Oklahoma" in June, Dolly Parton's "9 to 5" in July or perhaps "Annie" in August. Tickets for these matinees are \$44. Let me know your choice of show by the annual meeting, and we will select the

performance and purchase the tickets in mid-May.

For now, stay inside out of the cold and plan your spring and summer outings with your Elfun friends. We look forward to seeing everyone in May.

ELFUN Trust

In the last issue, we wrote about the Elfun Trusts. To be clear, the Syracuse Elfun Society has no involvement with the Elfun Trusts. They have been managed by State Street Investment Management (formerly State Street Global Advisors) since 2016. These funds may be of interest to our members, as many of us hold them in our portfolios. ELFNX symbolizes the Elfun Trusts. Total assets under management in the Elfun Trusts are approximately \$4,559 million. The value per share on 2/11/26 was \$92.30. During the past year, the Elfun Trust saw a low of \$73.87 in April and a high of \$103.98 in December. With tax preparation season upon us, you may need documents such as fact sheets, prospectuses, annual reports, or tax letters. PDFs of these documents, and many more, can be downloaded from the website <http://www.ssga.com/us/en/individual/mf/elfun-trust-elfnx>. If you have questions or need help, call State Street Investment Management at 1-800-242-0134.

Fidelity Investments

We have recently received calls from members, asking questions about pensions. Because our members retired from different GE businesses at different times and lengths of service, it is not possible to properly answer these questions. GE Aerospace and GE Vernova retirees can access pension benefits online by going to www.netbenefits.com and entering their username and password at the prompt. Individual questions can be directed to their business's retirement service center.

Syracuse Efun Society Board of Directors

www.syracuseelfunsociety.org

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Efun Geographics

Since most members of the Syracuse Efun Society are retired, you may wonder where we all settled. Wonder no more. Here's the breakdown by the addresses you have given us for our database:

Upstate Central New York (13xxx)	89
Florida	8
Capital Region (12xxx)	4
Arizona	2
North Carolina	2
Virginia	2

Alabama, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, Montana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Western New York (14xxx), each with one.

If you move or change your email address, please advise our Membership Manager, Ron Panetta (ron@panman.us, 315-451-4681), of the changes so you don't miss any of our announcements, flyers, or newsletters.

We have 8 members whose residences are in Florida. In addition, we have a number of snowbirds who call upstate NY home but reside part-time in Florida. FYI, The Efun Society of Florida, Inc., is one of the remaining active chapters. They are headquartered in Ormond Beach, Florida, and their website is <https://www.elfunsocietyfl.org/>. If the activities you see on their website look interesting to you, details on how to join are included in the "About" tab.