Syracuse Elfun Society

2026 Fall Newsletter Second Edition





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

- Ralph Cowdery, 99, passed away peacefully with family by his side on August 18, 2026. A Syracuse native, Ralph resided in Baldwinsville, NY, and enjoyed a long career at General Electric, retiring in 1985. Ralph lived a life of service and he was an avid skier, fisherman, and talented woodworker who cherished family summers at Otisco Lake.
- Harry R. Heilman, 96, of Syracuse, passed away September 16, 2026. Harry was born in Old Fort, Ohio, was a Navy veteran during the Korean War, a graduate of Syracuse University and worked as an Electrical Engineer at General Electric. After retirement, Harry enjoyed wood-working, playing cards with his nieces and continued his gardening with flowers and vast amounts of vegetables that he shared with family and neighbors.

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

I've said many times that Fall is my favorite time of the year. This Fall we took a boat ride on the Champlain canal. The leaves were starting to turn and were quite spectacular. Every year, I look forward to going on a haunted hayride with our grandchildren and roasting marshmallows afterward. The kids love to go apple picking and could eat their weight in apple cider donuts, but enough about us. What do you like about Fall?

Our Annual Holiday Party is scheduled earlier this year, in the hopes of better weather. Also, this may make it easier for those of you who migrate south to attend before you depart. In the meantime, if you have any questions or Elfun business to discuss, my cell phone number is 315-436-8696.

Don't forget, we have a website

Thanks to Ron Panetta, the Syracuse Elfun Society has a website and you can access it at www.syracuseelfunsociety.org. The website includes information about current events as well as downloadable copies of all of our newsletters for the past 16 years. There is a membership tab that you can share with anyone you think may want to join our organization. Another tab has a current list of officers along with their contacts. If you want to see event flyers going back 5 years, they are there, and finally we have some old memorabilia going back to the 40s, 50s and 60s.

Social Events by Cindy Chermak

Broadway in the Finger Lakes "Carousel" and lunch at The Sherwood Inn, August 19, 2026

We are always happy to return to The Sherwood Inn, and they did not disappoint. We were seated at two large tables, with plenty of opportunity to chat. The meals were ample and delicious, and the cookie trays were the perfect treat to end lunch. A few lucky members of our group enjoyed some of the extra cookies during intermission.



We had a nice group of 19 for the matinee of "Carousel". Rev Theatre last presented "Carousel" 29 years ago, and it appears that none in our group attended back then. We all know the Rogers and Hammerstein score, having heard it a time or two since the show's 1945 Broadway debut. Our sold-out performance featured innovative staging. There was no Carousel! There was no orchestra pit. The 17-piece orchestra, composed of local musicians, was elevated upstage and the company remained seated in a semicircle on stage throughout the show, turning their backs to the stage and the audience during the robbery scene. The Agnes de Mille choreography never goes out of style; it was difficult to choose which dancer to watch during "June is Bustin' Out all Over", and Louise certainly expressed her unhappiness during "The Carousel Ballet". The narrator, who doubled as the Starkeeper, unified the performance and ably assisted Billy's transition from the "back gates" to the "pearly gates" of heaven. This remains one of our most popular outings, and we appreciate the gracious welcome we receive from the Inn and the Theatre each year.

Holiday Luncheon

Let's get into the holiday spirit a little early this year. We have moved the holiday luncheon to Thursday, November 19, in hopes of avoiding the snow day that we had last December. Tassone's Wine Garden will once again host our group for a holiday buffet, including chef salad, fruit bowl, vegetable, ziti, meatballs, roast potatoes, chicken, roast beef, bread and butter, and coffee, tea and soda. There is a cash bar available. It was delicious last year and should be delicious this year as well.

There is ample parking right next to the door, and there is only one step up to the large function room. Plan to arrive at 11:30 am to allow time for socializing prior to the Noon buffet. Rose Phillips won the holiday plant arrangement door prize last year. Maybe you'll be the lucky one this year. A flyer accompanies this newsletter, so, gather your Elfun friends and send in your reservation for this annual celebration.

Did you know?

Did you know that there is archival material about the Elfun Society in the National Museum of American History? The Elfun Society (General Electric) ID No. NMAH.AC.1288_Ref340 is located in the William L. Bird Holiday Display collection. William L. Bird was the curator of the National Museum of Natural History. He used advertising and trade literature as background for the publication of his book, Holidays on Display (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2007). The museum opened an exhibit of the same name in 2009.

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GE "Adventure" series

Back in September, we sent out an email announcement about this opportunity, but we are including it again in this newsletter to accommodate those members who only get the news by paper copy.

The General Electric "Adventure" series is a collection of promotional comic books published in the late 1940s to promote understanding of electrical concepts and innovations among a younger audience. Many of the comics were illustrated by notable artists, including George "Inky" Roussos, known for his work on Batman. In 2022, Steve Auyer printed copies of the GE "Adventure " series comics and made them available to our membership. Titles included:

"Adventures in Electricity" (7 issues in the series)
"Adventures in Jet Power" (4 revisions)
"Adventures Inside the Atom" (2 revisions)
"Adventure into the Past"
"Adventure into the Future"
"More Power to America"
"Land of Plenty"
"Electricity Around Us"
"Man-made Magic"
"Network of Power"
"Adventures in Electronics"
"Science in your Future"
"Engineering in your Future" (2 issues in the series)
"The Story of Light"
"Our Place in Space"

Most of the issues are 16 pages long, and we have approximately 10 copies of each remaining.
If you are interested in obtaining any or all of these documents, call Carl Chermak at his cell, 315-436-8696, or send an email to carlchermak@gmail.com.

Be sure to include a street address where they can be mailed or arrange a pickup time and place.

GE Press Releases

This newsletter is being published a little too early to report 3rd quarter earnings, but all three GE businesses will hold webcasts later this month where this information will be available.

GE Aerospace is expected to report its Q3 2026 earnings on a webcast on October 20, 2026, 7:30 am to 8:20 am EDT. The GE Aerospace leadership team will be present. To attend this webcast, use the link https://www.geaerospace.com/investor-relations/events-reports/ge-aerospace-3rd-quarter-2026-earnings-webcast.

GE HealthCare will announce its third quarter 2026 financial results before the market opens on Wednesday, October 28, 2026. The GE HealthCare management team will also host a conference call and webcast at 8:30 am Eastern Time - 7:30 am Central Time on that same day, which will be a live webcast and accessible at https://investor.gehealthcare.com/news-events/events. The earnings release, accompanying financial information, and webcast replay also will be posted at the same link on the GE HealthCare Investor Relations website.

GE Vernova announced that its Board of Directors declared a $0.50 per share quarterly dividend. The quarterly dividend will be payable on November 24, 2026, to shareholders of record as of October 27, 2026. GE Vernova's 3rd Quarter 2026 Earnings Webcast is scheduled for October 28, 2026, 07:30 am EDT. The webcast can be accessed at https://www.gevernova.com/investors/events.

GE Musaphonic Radios

The instruction book for our Musaphonic Model 42 Radio and Phonograph (middle picture) calls it one of the great musical instruments of all time. A triumph of engineering, it recreates both radio programs and recorded music with fidelity and beauty never before achieved. This radio, manufactured in Syracuse, NY, in 1948, has 6 bands, including one AM (540 to 1600 kHz), two FM (42 to 49 MHz and 88 to 108 MHz), and three SW (9.4 to 9.8 MHz, 11.5 to 12 MHz, and 14.8 to 15.5 MHz). The radio no longer works, but the mahogany cabinet, designed and built by master craftsmen, is truly beautiful. GE produced Musaphonic models in Bridgeport, CT, and Syracuse, NY. Steve Auyer donated some of his collection of Musaphonic radios to the Museum of Innovation and Science, 15 Museum Drive, Schenectady, NY 12308. We recently had the opportunity to visit the museum. The picture on the right is the display of these radios. If you are in the Schenectady area, I recommend you check them out, along with a wealth of other artifacts of the General Electric Company and the Schenectady area.







Syracuse Elfun Society Board of Directors

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