

# The Ruthmere Record

THE RUTHMERE FOUNDATION, INC. • 302 E. BEARDSLEY AVENUE • ELKHART, INDIANA 46514

FALL 2005

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## RUTHMERE'S NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM GAINS MOMENTUM

*Laurel Spencer Forsythe, Executive Director*



*Ruthmere members will enjoy a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gordon Smith's remarkable home.*

Members of Ruthmere are invited to a very special gathering at the masterful South Bend home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gordon Smith on Sunday, November 6 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Thomas Gordon Smith, distinguished architect, noted scholar, and former chair of the architecture department at the University of Notre Dame, is a member of Ruthmere's Board of Directors. Found at the end of a fairly typical suburban cul-de-sac, the Smiths' neoclassicist home is a breathtaking combination of dramatic architecture, stunning original art, a handsome mid-nineteenth century antique collection, and the usual mementoes of family life. "An Autumn Afternoon at Vitruvian House" is a benefit for The Ruthmere Foundation, Inc. As our major membership event of the year, in this, our inaugural year of the membership program, we hope that those who have been considering membership will find this an ideal opportunity to join, and those who are members will join us for a memorable experience.

*For more information call 574-264-0330*

Since we launched our membership program this spring, inviting community participation in supporting Ruthmere has been our most important goal. Asking the community to take an active role in perpetuating the Ruthmere legacy is an exciting step. It's our time to carry forward the cultural work begun by Robert Beardsley and those who helped him to restore Albert and Elizabeth Beardsley's home to its former elegance. It's our opportunity to celebrate and share the timeless beauty of awe-inspiring architecture and first rate fine and decorative arts collections. It's our turn to become stewards of the community's past and carry it forward to share with the next generation, so that they, too, will understand, appreciate and enjoy its rewards.

If you've already become a Ruthmere member, thank you. If you have not yet stepped into the circle of membership, won't you please join us now? Your membership support is vital to preserving and presenting Ruthmere. Thinking about birthday gifts or doing some early holiday shopping? Consider giving a Ruthmere membership as a gift to those art lovers, history buffs, and antique and architecture enthusiasts on your shopping list. It's a gift that gives throughout the year in special reception invitations, tour tickets, museum shop discounts, and, most importantly, the value in knowing that you are making a personal commitment to preserving a unique and lovely part of our community's past.

*Ruthmere*

**Discover the Rewards of Membership**

*See page 5 for details*

## MEMBERSHIPS—JANUARY THRU OCTOBER 2005

### *Louis Comfort Tiffany Leadership Circle*

#### *Platinum Level*

Arthur J. Decio Foundation

Alice A. & Rex Martin

Joan Beardsley Norris

#### *Rose Gold Level*

Dorinda Miles Smith

#### *Gold Level*

Christopher & Sarah Chocola

Corson Family Foundation

Arthur J. & Patricia Decio

Robert & Mary Pat Deputy

George & Kathy Freese

Craig & Connie Fulmer

### *General Membership*

#### *Silver Level*

Laurel Spencer Forsythe

Robert & Gail T. Martin

#### *Bronze Level*

Laura Funk

Desco Glass

David & Deborah Griffis

Neil & Patricia Klockow

Phil & Bonnie Penn

Tim & Meg Shelley

Steve & Kathy Sponseller

Robert & Peggy Weed

#### *Patron*

Bettie Dippo

Rachel Dose

Isabelle Freeman

Robert & Karin Frey

Keith & Nancy Holmes

Dean & Judy Kelly

Charles & Betty Lamb

Ann Miller

Marilou Ritchie

Susie Warner

Nicholas & Lindsay Witwer

#### *Family*

Stuart & Paula Barb

J. E. & Carol Benson

John & Patricia Bickart

Glen & Renee Brookshire

Amos Enane

Richard & Audrey Herzberg

Lori Kitkowski

Jerry & Kelly Martin

James & Ann McNamee

Russell Ritchie & Anita Miller

Willard & Alice Roth

Ronald & Phyllis Wolschlager

#### *Individual*

Martha Ball

Marilyn Beardsley

Judy Bechtold

Jan Cawley

Carol Emens

Joanne Franklin

Megan Freeman

Jan Grodnik

Robert Hatch

Mary Jane Hiles

Richard Kennedy

Patricia Morison

Peg Owens

Mary Perron

Sue Reim

Karleen Richter

Sally Roth

Phil & Carole Staal

Elizabeth Steele

Peg Trobaugh

Michael Truax

Linda Unger

Marilyn Wilson



### BOARD MEMBERS SUPPORT LOUIS COMFORT TIFFANY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

*Ruthmere board members Arthur J. Decio and Robert Deputy greet each other at a garden event at Ruthmere. Mr. and Mrs. Decio and Mr. and Mrs. Deputy are Louis Comfort Tiffany Leadership Circle members. As lead donors, they lend strong support to the museum's programs and collections.*

### STAFF GIVE ADMIRABLE SUPPORT TO MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

*Laurel Spencer Forsythe*

When we launched the membership program this spring, I encouraged our staff members to consider joining. Six months later, I am thrilled with the staff's commitment to the membership program. Membership among staff is now close to 100% participation, and we hope to reach 100% by year end. Those who have joined have stretched to give back to Ruthmere to a degree that is rare. I am truly honored and proud to be part of such a generous, loyal and committed team!

#### House Tours:

Tuesday - Saturday on the hour at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m.

Sundays on the hour at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m.

Closed all major holidays.

#### Facilities Rentals at Ruthmere

Ruthmere offers a unique atmosphere for business meetings and private events. Our game room is a warm, yet distinctive setting for seminars, presentations, and other professional gatherings. Year-round, we can help you to plan the perfect indoor or outdoor wedding ceremony, birthday party, or other private celebrations.

For more information about reserving Ruthmere for your special event, please call (574) 264-0330 or e-mail us at [info@ruthmere.org](mailto:info@ruthmere.org).

The Ruthmere Record is published quarterly from 302 E. Beardsley Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46514

## RODIN REDISCOVERED

Robert B. Beardsley, President, Board of Directors

Who hasn't worked hours at his or her computer on something important when "poof" it disappears forever, never to be found again. In a way that happened to me when the entire file on the purchase and provenance of Auguste Rodin's *Fallen Caryatid*, the awesome French limestone sculpture owned by Ruthmere, vanished from Ruthmere's files some 20 years ago without a trace. What happened?

With it disappeared original letters between Rodin and the woman who commissioned the work, the first of four pedestals for the lady's sarcophagus, as well as all the correspondence and negotiation between my father, Walter, and the Chicago art dealer who sold him the *Caryatid*. The legal-sized, 3" thick file went missing about 1982, more than 20 years ago. Its absence over the years made publicizing this important artwork almost impossible (other than to say we had it) and also made research about it for scholars and students impossible. Was it stolen, thrown out, misplaced, borrowed? Only recently did we find out. But before I tell you what happened, a few words about the piece and how we got the *Fallen Caryatid* in the first place.

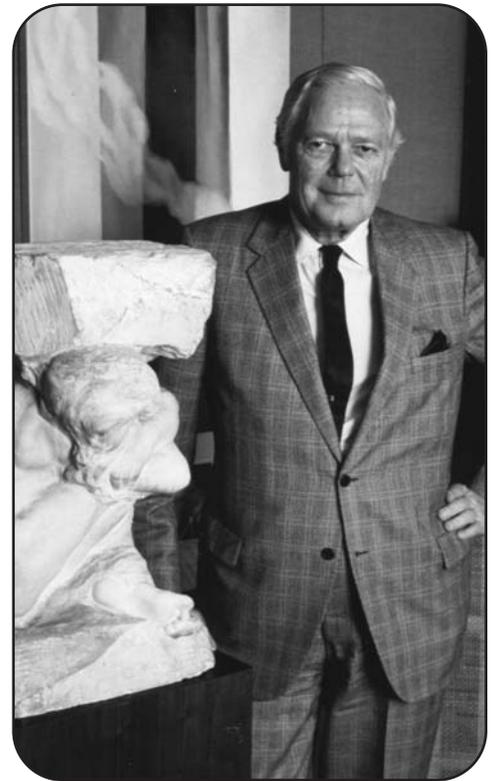
First, a caryatid is a supporting column in the form of a draped female figure. The most famous group of these muscular ladies holds up the temple of Diana on the Acropolis. A "fallen" Caryatid, I suppose, through grief or weakness, is no longer able to do her job, and here grief is the theme chosen by Rodin for his commission for the French lady. What a pity she died shortly after work on her memorial had just begun. What a monumental work it would have been had she lived long enough to see it to completion.

Rodin was best known for his bronzes. Castings of Rodin bronzes, while very

valuable, are in museums and private collections the world over. But there are only 11 or 12 limestone sculptures, each one unique and crafted by the master's hands, thus making ours a very important work of art, indeed. Its provenance and every detail of its acquisition therefore is of great importance to many people, including students and scholars and, certainly, to Ruthmere.

I enter the picture in 1970. At the time I was enjoying a rather glamorous crossing on the brand new QE2 from New York to Southampton when I got a cable from Walter telling me about an "opportunity" to purchase the *Caryatid* in Paris from a Chicago art dealer friend. Because this dealer always couched his art sales to Walter in sports talk, to my then youthful eyes and ears his sincerity and professionalism were somewhat suspect. "Gee, Walter, you really gotta have this one. You'll be a real winner here. What a touchdown!" The cable went on to suggest I go to the Rodin Museum in Paris to ask Director Madame Goldschreider her opinion. Surely she would know, albeit her credentials were somewhat dubious: when the Germans gave her the job during the occupation, her appointment was largely dismissed by the Paris art community as political.

So I went. Madame declined to see me but sent her tiny, timid secretary down the long stone steps from her second floor office. Into her hands I thrust photos and information for Madame to consider. Within minutes "Faux!" came back the verdict, without so much as a "yes, no, boo, or goodbye" about it, either. So it was "false", was it, nothing more, no elaboration? Others knew the piece; it had been written about and photographed for years, but Madame said "false"? At first I thought my French skills were not up to par, but no, I did



Walter Beardsley stands with Auguste Rodin's awesome limestone sculpture, "Fallen Caryatid."

understand "faux" and insofar as Madame Goldschreider was concerned that was the end of it. This was indeed heavy news to relay to Elkhart.

But American experts were consulted who said, "bien sur" it was the real thing, no doubt! And the art dealer had these letters from Rodin and photographs of the piece with the sculptor and the piece itself, too. The master's handwriting was genuine and clearly his correspondence with Madame was genuine enough. The end tally is that Ruthmere today is more than fortunate to have the real thing. The orange marble plinth it rests on, which I had made in Portugal ten years ago, shows the sculpture to advantage, we believe. And there it has been on display all these years with little known about its history in spite of our efforts until very recently.

*"Rodin Rediscovered" continued on top of page 4*

And search we did, everywhere. *Caryatid* arrived at Ruthmere in 1978; Walter died in 1980, and his files, along with the Rodin file, came to Ruthmere shortly thereafter. As director I remember taking “a few samples” of Rodin’s handwriting with me to Boston to make sure they were genuine (I must have taken a great deal more, but why I do not recall) but there my recollection stops cold. In Boston I had an office and many large filing cabinets, some of which followed me to Maine in 1988.

A carpenter/handyman (we know for a fact) stole some valuable postage stamps and other items from me in Boston. For

years he was the number one suspect for the missing Rodin papers, but I couldn’t prove a thing. Hercule Poirot might have found him guilty about the stamps, but for the Rodin papers he was quite innocent. The guilty party for the papers, ahem, shall soon be revealed!

Last August I was working late one afternoon in our large high-ceilinged attic in Kennebunk, Maine. It was well over 90 degrees. Whittling away at mounds of books, under the eaves I spied one of those Boston filing cabinets. Four drawers I soon realized were jam-packed full. Groaning slightly and glancing at my watch, I started with the top drawer, fold-

er by folder, tossing, sorting, reading, smiling, and enjoying those things one does while going through old files not seen in many years. About dusk I got to the very bottom drawer. In the failing light I saw a single gray legal-sized folder way in the back behind the drawer divider. And there it was, with “Rodin” scrawled plainly across the front in my own writing. Voila! I was suddenly archeologist Robert Carter all over again when he first peered into King Tutankhamen’s tomb and said: “I see wonderful things!” And I did. There was the complete file with all the documentation, correspondence, and provenance. There it all was. I had had it all along.

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## RUTHMERE BRINGS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION HOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD WITH AN EDWARDIAN YULETIDE ON DECEMBER 3RD AND 4TH

by *Gail T. Martin, Director of Development*

Ruthmere will open its doors to a new holiday event entitled “An Edwardian Yuletide” on Saturday, December 3, from 1 pm to 7 pm. and Sunday, December 4, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The weekend of activities begins with an open house at Creek House, the home of Ruthmere’s Executive Director, Laurel Spencer Forsythe, at 920 Grove Street from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Creek House, once the Beardsley’s carriage house, was transformed into a family home during the 1930s. It will be decorated for the season. The Concord Singers perform from 2:30-3:30 at Creek House, and hot cider will be served on the front lawn of the restored carriage house.

At 4:00 pm, organist Celia Weiss will present an organ concert of holiday music with a holiday sing-a-long in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church at 200 East Beardsley Avenue. At 5:00 pm, luminaria will surround the sidewalks of Ruthmere to guide ticket holders to a true Edwardian Yuletide fest. Troubadour harp students of

Suzanne Davids will entertain visitors as they enjoy evening tours of Ruthmere. Elkhart’s elegant 1910 Beaux Arts mansion will be decorated in Edwardian fashion from the early 20th century. Wassail punch will be served by staff garbed in period costumes.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the event.

Sunday, December 4, Ruthmere will be open for house tours and a Christmas tea at 2:00 pm. The cost of the tea is \$15. A ticket for the events on both days will be \$30. Call 574-264-0330 to order your tickets. Visa, Master Card and Discover cards are accepted.

Horse-drawn carriage rides will be offered for \$5.00 per person on Sunday from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Guests will board the carriage from the mansion’s piazza, under the porte-cochere, and enjoy a holiday tour of the Beardsley Avenue historic district adjoining Ruthmere. Tickets for the carriage ride are \$5.00 per person and are available for purchase the day of the event.



## NOTES FROM AN OAKEN AERIE...

Marilou Ritchie, Archivist/Librarian

In the last newsletter we wrote a little about Louis Comfort Tiffany as one of the major artists whose work can be seen at Ruthmere and about the collection of books on him in the Robert B. Beardsley Reference Library. Now, as Robert writes about documents lost and documents regained, we'll look at the books we've collected about Auguste Rodin. There are several of them. Three of them are catalogs: one, of the Rodins that you might find in the Cleveland Museum of Art; another, from the Rodin Museum in Paris; and finally, one from the 1981 exhibit at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, in which Ruthmere's *Fallen Caryatid* was shown.

In addition to the catalogs are several books with large numbers of photographs of Rodin's work; these are always good for a quick overview. More can be learned from Albert Elsen's *Auguste Rodin: Readings on His Life and Work*, which presents essays by T. H. Bartlett and Rainer Maria Rilke and translations of Rodin's thoughts on art. Judith Cladel, who was a student of Rodin, published a biography, *Rodin; the Man and His Art*, in 1917. Told with enthusiastic appreciation and possibly some prejudice, her book is an inter-

esting account of his life. Told from a greater distance, Auguste Rodin by Robert Descharmes and Jean-Francois Chabrun relates his story in more definitive detail. It includes an enormous bibliography, a chronology of his work, and faithful reproductions of most of his work, including *La France*, which sits on one of the pier cases in our library.

On the same case is *L'Implorante*, or the *Imploring Woman*, by Camille Claudel, who was another student of Rodin. She became a trusted coworker, model, and mistress to him. The library also owns her biography as well as the catalog from her 1988 exhibit in Washington, D.C. Recently we celebrated her life by watching *Camille*, the fine French movie starring Isabelle Adjani.

Fall is here, and the maple outside the library is turning red; it's a lovely time to spend an afternoon studying the works of Auguste Rodin and Camille Claudel in our warm and inviting library. We're open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. We welcome you.

# Ruthmere

Discover the Rewards of Membership

# MUSEUM STORE NOW FEATURES LOUIS COMFORT TIFFANY AND WILLIAM MORRIS

Just in time for your holiday shopping, Ruthmere's museum store presents exciting home and fashion accents from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Drawing inspiration from Ruthmere's fine and decorative arts collections, these elegant items

feature the art of Louis Comfort Tiffany on note cards, scarves, playing cards, and jewelry. Enjoy the period aesthetic of William Morris designs on scarves, watches, and silk ties; pleasing arts and crafts style vases; and charming children's books. There is some-

thing to delight everyone on your gift list. Remember that your Ruthmere membership entitles you to a 10% discount on most merchandise. Plan to join us for our special Sip and Shop evening hours on December 1 and 8 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.



## Petal Vase

*Based on an original vase, American, 1897*

The Petal Vase reproduces a late nineteenth-century vase in the collection of the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

The original glazed earthenware vase was manufactured in Boston, MA in 1897 by the Grueby Faience Company. Both original and reproduction are approximately 8 inches high with a cylindrical form and a cucumber-green matte glaze. Retail price: \$37.80 (members); \$42.00 (non-members).



## Blue Thistle Arts and Crafts Vase

*Adapted from original vase, 1919*

*From the Rookwood Pottery workshop American, 1880-1960*

One of the most successful American Arts and Crafts workshops was Rookwood Pottery, founded in 1883 in Cincinnati, Ohio by Maria Longworth Nichols, an amateur but inventive potter. The original Thistle Pattern Vase, on which the Blue Thistle Vase is based, was designed for Rookwood by Albert Cyrus Munson, one of its most accomplished and prolific potters. His stylized thistles repeat around the base with geometric regularity; it is a design of great simplicity and beauty. Height 8 1/2 in., diameter 2 1/4 in. Retail price: \$49.50 (members); \$55.00 (non-members).

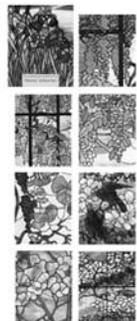


## White Chinaberry Arts and Crafts Vase

*Adapted from an original vase, 1932*

*From the Rookwood Pottery workshop American, 1880-1960*

The original glazed ceramic vase, on which the White Chinaberry Arts and Crafts Vase is based, was designed for Rookwood by William E. Hentschel (1892-1962); the lovely round shape was developed by John Q. Wareham (1872-1954). The chinaberries are stylized to form an almost abstract pattern of dots and lines. Height 4 3/4 inches; diameter 5 7/8 inches. Retail price: \$49.50 (members); \$55.00 (non-members).



## Tiffany Windows Note Cards

Our note cards capture the beauty of Tiffany's innovative glasswork with stunning details of his leaded-glass windows. Louis Comfort Tiffany (American, 1848-1933)

developed art glass that achieved subtle effects of shading and texture. He began his career as a painter but moved quickly to interior decoration and leaded-glass windows. He created revolutionary types of opalescent glass that radiated especially deep, vibrant hues, using variations in color and thickness of glass to achieve pictorial effects of unsurpassed subtlety and beauty.

3 each of 8 images, 24 cards per box. Boxed with 25 envelopes. 4 7/8 in. x 6 1/4 in.

Retail price: \$14.35 (members); \$15.95 (non-members).



## Tiffany Peony Neckerchief

In addition to his stained-glass windows, Louis

Comfort Tiffany (American, 1848-1933) is noted as a designer of all aspects of the decorative arts. His Peony lamp and shade on display in Ruthmere's library, was the source for the design on this Tiffany Peony Neckerchief. Imported silk chiffon. 22 in. square. Retail price: \$14.35 (members); \$15.95 (non-members).



## William Morris Compton Neckerchief

*From wallpaper designs by*

*William Morris (1834-1896)*

*English, 19th century*

William Morris was one of the most influential figures of the British Victorian era. In 1861, Morris founded the interior design firm of Morris, Marshall, Faulkner, & Co. and in the process broke down the modern barrier between fine and decorative art, and established an equivalent to the cooperative guilds of the Middle Ages. Imported silk crêpe de chine. 22 in. square.

Retail price: \$15.25 (members); \$16.95 (non-members) Fall Shopping Special! Buy \$100 worth of merchandise and receive this lovely scarf as our gift to you!



## A Cup of Christmas Tea

*by Tom Hegg & Illustrated by Warren Hanson*

The beloved holiday classic, *A Cup of Christmas Tea* is now available for purchase at Ruthmere's museum shop. Retail price: \$14.95 plus tax.

## FACES AND FRIENDS

*Nicholas Roth is a pianist from Indiana with a string of triumphs, including prizes in competitions, highest honors from Indiana University's School of Music, and even recognition by the Indiana House of Representatives for his contribution to the performing arts. The Novelletten (by Schumann) were recorded in a church in Michigan in 2001, with excellent results—the sound is sumptuous and rich; but more important, his playing is simply wonderful. He captures Schumann's romantic style fully with rapturous, soaring phrases, a subtly expressive reaction to key changes, and the tasteful, unexaggerated use of rubato.*

– Reviewed in Fanfare,  
November/December 2005.

Friend of Ruthmere and acclaimed pianist Nicholas Roth received this glowing review in the latest issue of *Fanfare* magazine for his recording of Schumann's *Novelletten*. Ruthmere looks forward to



*Robert Beardsley, President of the Board of Directors and founding director of Ruthmere, greets concert pianist Nicholas Roth following his spring concert. Mr. Beardsley invited young Nicholas to play Ruthmere's notable Steinway grand piano when he was a boy, and Nicholas Roth's first public concert was played on that same piano when he was 14 years old.*

the return of Nicholas Roth on Friday, November 25 at 7:30 pm. Reserve your ticket for the concert and reception by calling (574) 264-0330.

Lindsay Witwer, who served as a summer docent at Ruthmere in 2003 while a college

student, has stepped into the position of part-time Public Relations and Membership Coordinator. She and her husband Nicholas recently moved to South Bend, where Nick works as Economic Development Director for the city. Lindsay is upgrading our public relations systems and gives tours of Ruthmere as needed.

Ruthmere sends good wishes to Ellen Haynes, owner of All Goods Market and Café. Ellen recently closed the doors of this favorite local bistro due to personal health issues. We will miss her fine food and friendly staff, and we look forward to her return to catering when she is well.

Rusty Heckaman, a senior at IU-South Bend, will join Ruthmere as an intern during the fall semester. Rusty will assist staff, including archivist/librarian Marilou Ritchie, with a project to catalogue materials given to Ruthmere from the Miles Archives of Bayer.

### COLLECTION FOCUS:

## THE ANTIQUE CAR COLLECTION

*"Our first priority with the antique cars at Ruthmere is to preserve their original condition and second is to put them in running order so that they may be part of events held at Ruthmere. We have been partially successful with the 1917 Cadillac, but its fuel system still needs some work. So far the 1912 Pratt has not yielded its secrets of firing on all four cylinders, but we are going to consult others who have similar vehicles. Ruthmere is fortunate to have these vehicles as examples of the lifestyle at Ruthmere during the early 20th Century."*

– Dean Hupp, Volunteer Car Curator

Ruthmere's 1917 Cadillac was acquired for the museum by Robert Beardsley because it is very similar to

the 1918 Cadillac that was owned by Albert R. Beardsley. This model was among the first to be offered with an electric starter, which was quite a luxury. Cadillac was among the first in the US to offer this feature. The vehicle features a 70 horse power, V-8 engine, which was advertised to have a cruising speed of 70 mph. The engine is 315 cubic inches in size. The gas tank is located at the back of the chassis. The Cadillac also features pressure lubrication for the main bearings and connecting rods. The "tanks" located in pairs at the front and back of the car are part of the suspension system. None of the cars of this time period were fuel efficient because they all ran on 70 octane gasoline, which is close to kerosene. Originally, this car would have sold for around \$3,000.

## CHICAGO BUS TOUR

Limited seating is now available for our bus trip to Chicago, Illinois on Tuesday, December 6, 2005.

The Art Institute and Magnificent Mile are but 100 miles away, but the traffic and unpredictable weather can make it seem like 1,000! Explore the Art Institute, stroll the Magnificent Mile as you begin your search for that perfect holiday present, or visit Chicago's newest attraction, Millennium Park.

Your ticket price includes deluxe, chartered, round-trip transportation only. Lunch in Chicago is on your own! Ruthmere Members: \$40 each. Non-members: \$45 each.

Boarding will begin at 7:45am in the 1st Presbyterian Church parking lot; we will depart promptly at 8am (Indiana time). We are scheduled to depart from Chicago at 5pm (Indiana time).

The deadline to sign up for this trip is Wednesday, November 30, 2005. Please contact Deborah Griffis at 574-264-0330, ext. 101 or via e-mail at [dgriffis@ruthmere.org](mailto:dgriffis@ruthmere.org). Checks should be made payable to Ruthmere.

# RUTHMERE MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Ruthmere*

THE RUTHMERE FOUNDATION, INC.  
302 EAST BEARDSLEY AVENUE  
ELKHART, INDIANA 46514  
574.264.0330  
www.ruthmere.org

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Permit No. 151

## NOVEMBER

24 **Thanksgiving Day (Closed)**

25 **Fall Concert Series: Nicholas Roth in Concert 7:30 p.m.** Reception to follow concert. Seating is limited. Tickets may be reserved by calling 264-0330. \$20 each for non-members; \$18 each for members.

## DECEMBER

1 **Sip and Shop from 5-8 p.m.** Are you still looking for that perfect, one of a kind gift? Enjoy an early evening of holiday shopping in the cozy warmth of Ruthmere's museum shop and plan to stay for refreshments. Museum admission not required.

3 **An Edwardian Yuletide at Ruthmere.** Tickets will go on sale in October. Please call 264-0330 for pricing and venue information.

4 **An Edwardian Yuletide at Ruthmere.** Please call 264-0330 for pricing and venue information. Tours begin at 1, 2 & 3 p.m. Reserved seating for 2 p.m. holiday tea required!

6 **Magnificent Mile Culture & Shopping Bus Trip.** Tickets are \$40 each for members & \$45 each for non-members. Please call 264-0330 to order tickets. Seating is limited!

8 **Sip and Shop from 5-8 p.m.** Are you still looking for that perfect, one of a kind gift? Enjoy an early evening of holiday shopping in the cozy warmth of Ruthmere's museum shop and plan to stay for refreshments. Museum admission not required.

24 **Christmas Eve (Closed)**

25 **Christmas Day (Closed)**

31 **New Years Eve**

## PROGRAM FOCUS:

# CONCERT SERIES, LIBRARY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, AND MORE

*Laurel Spencer Forsythe*

The garden's glorious hues are slipping away as cool nights bring brilliant color to Ruthmere's maples. The green and white awnings have come down—a sure sign of the shorter days and longer shadows of fall. We are having fewer weddings and garden parties as staff activity shifts to preparing for indoor special events, including concerts, an exciting new holiday program, and a trip to downtown Chicago for art and a little shopping in early December. We'll open up our own museum shop for special evening holiday shopping hours on Thursday evenings, December 1 and 8, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

This fall marks the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Robert Beardsley Arts Reference Library. We celebrated with a series of Sunday afternoon open houses to bring public attention to this special resource, with its treasure trove of rare books and fine arts, nestled within a serene atmosphere for private study. More than forty book lovers, including nearly a dozen young

people, attended the final Sunday open house on October 16. Little ones made their own booklet, "My Favorite Things at Ruthmere," to take home.

Concerts in the game room continue to draw enthusiastic audiences. A delightful program by "A Duo of Trios," offered as benefit for Ruthmere by four gifted women featured The Mittenwald Trio with Judith Weaver (violin), Elizabeth Steele (viola), and Juliana Lockman (piano) playing works by Mozart and Fuchs. They were followed by The Juliana Trio, featuring Weaver, Lockman and Sara Thomas on violoncello playing Chopin's brilliant Trio in G minor, Opus 8. Library of Congress Living Treasure Bob Milne's ragtime concert on October 14 was a sell out, and now I understand why. His brilliance as a self-taught musician was matched only by the splendid tones of Ruthmere's legendary Steinway, once the practice piano of Arthur Rubinstein. We hope to bring Bob Milne back next fall, just as we look forward to

the return of Nicholas Roth on Friday, November 25.

On Saturday, December 3 from 1:00 to 7:00 pm, an Edwardian Yuletide at Ruthmere brings holiday cheer to our own neighborhood with music, festive holiday trimmings, and period costumes at Ruthmere and Creek House (*see article by Gail Martin on page 4*). Organist Celia Weiss presents a concert at 4:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, just across Grove Street. Special evening hours at Ruthmere until 7:00 pm will allow our guests to enjoy the ambience of the mansion after dark, including a special visit with Father Christmas and some traditional wassail punch and holiday treats. On Sunday, December 4, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm, Edwardian Yuletide will feature horse-drawn carriage rides on Grove and the nearby streets, to highlight a few of the sites in the historic neighborhood. A Yuletide Tea will be served at 2:00 pm. Please plan to join us at Ruthmere for a cup of good cheer!