

The Ruthmere Record

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

FALL/WINTER 2011

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Newly restored 'Best Parlor' at the Havilah Beardsley House - open for tours through October 2, 2012. The Best Parlor was used to entertain guests and would be the location for fine quality furniture, decorative items and artwork.

ELKHART ROOTS: THE FIRST BEARDSLEY MANSION

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In real estate, they say the three most important words are "location, location, and location." Truer words were never spoken when it comes to the founding of Elkhart in 1831 and the family behind that endeavor, Havilah and Rachel Beardsley. Elkhart is located where it is because of Beardsley's recognition of the geographic advantages of this crossroads of commerce and water power—the confluence of the St. Joseph River, the Elkhart River and Christiana Creek.

Then and today, the north bank of the St. Joseph River claims a commanding view over this junction upon which downtown Elkhart was built. It seems no accident that the founding family chose to build their first substantial home on the north bank of the St. Joseph looking straight down Main Street. From there the Beardsleys could see all of Elkhart, and perhaps just as importantly, all of Elkhart would see them. And why not? Havilah Beardsley had a tremendous influence over the growth and prosperity of this town by building mills, starting a variety of essential businesses, serving as a local judge, and yet, he too had seen his fair share of challenges and failed endeavors. By 1848, the family's fortunes were well established and their new "Beardsley Mansion" was the first brick residence built in Elkhart County. Hard work and perseverance had paid off.

Flash forward 160 years and we find this same big white house looming at the north end of Main Street is revealing its secrets slowly but surely. Ruthmere Foundation opened the property to the public for the first time on June 5, 2011. On opening day 527 people passed through the doors of this new house museum, and more keep coming. It's not a finished product just yet, restoration

continued on next page

Ruthmere

DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Please fill out this form and mail or fax it to:
Ruthmere Museum Membership
302 East Beardsley Avenue
Elkhart, IN 46514
Telephone: (574) 264-0330
Fax: (574) 266-0474

Individual (\$50) Family (\$75) Patron (\$100)
 Bronze Patron (\$250) Silver Patron (\$500)
 Gold Patron (\$1,000) Rose Gold Patron (\$2,500)
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Name(s) as you would like to be listed in publications

Address

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Email Address

I request a paper copy of the Ruthmere Record mailed to my address.

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____
Please make check payable to Ruthmere Museum

Please charge \$ _____ to my:

Visa MasterCard DiscoverCard

Account Number Expiration Date

Signature (Required for Credit Card)

This is a gift membership for:

Name(s) as you would like to be listed in publications

Address

City/State/Zip

Daytime Phone

Matching gift form enclosed. Membership contributions to Ruthmere Museum may be matched by your employer. Ask if your company participates in the matching gift program.

Memorial In memory of _____
Memorials are available anytime at Ruthmere.

RUTHMERE MEMBERSHIP

Your investment in membership helps ensure that there is a place in Elkhart where history, art and culture remain relevant in today's modern world. Ruthmere and the Havilah Beardsley House, important Elkhart landmarks, stand as a reminder of community roots and serve as a connection between our past and our future. Thank you for your continued support!

All membership levels include unlimited number of visits to Ruthmere Museum and Havilah Beardsley House throughout the year, access to the Ruthmere Record, advanced program information and member discounts on services and events.

Levels & Benefits

Individual - \$50 - Admit 2 free per visit

Family - \$75 - Admit 4 free per visit

Patron - \$100 - Admit 6 free per visit and recognition in the Ruthmere Record

Bronze Patron - \$250 - Patron level benefits, and free tickets to the Spring Lecture Series

Silver Patron - \$500 - Patron level benefits, and free tickets to the Fall Concert Series

The Louis Comfort Tiffany Leadership Circle

is a special membership level that provides the benefits of the Patron membership, tickets to both the Spring Lecture Series and the Fall Concert Series and invitations to all other special events. Recognition is offered at three membership levels: \$1000 Gold Patron, \$2500 Rose Gold Patron and \$5000 Platinum Patron.

*The First Beardsley Mansion
continued from page 1*

will proceed as resources allow, but most importantly, this is a project where the public is invited to share in this journey of remarkable transformation. The Havilah Beardsley House tells a story for every citizen of Elkhart, the reasons that we are here, and the grit and determination that make up our community heritage. We are from good stock.

The journey has begun. Through painstaking preservation we can now experience the elaborated decorations and eerie darkness of the fully restored Best Parlor. With the help of professional archaeologists from IUSB and volunteers we will answer questions which the written record ignored by reaching into the ground and touching history with our hands. School kids can look out the same window where Havilah Beardsley once gazed out upon his fledgling town, and ask themselves the same question he did, "What will I do to make Elkhart better?" The Havilah Beardsley House is not only a window into Elkhart's past, but it is also a beacon of inspiration for our future.



I-SPY ELKHART CELL PHONE TOUR EXPANDED

Ruthmere's i-Spy Elkhart Cell Phone Tour continues to take interpretation out to historic locations in the community. Since the program's launch in the Fall of 2010, over 2600 visitors have accessed this free tour service. Currently, four tour tracks are available: the Beardsley Historic District Tour, the E. Hill Turnock Architectural Tour, the Band Instrument Industry Tour, and the ElkArt On Parade Tour. Coming soon, the Ruthmere Gardens and Grounds Tour. All i-Spy Elkhart Tours begin simply by dialing 574-584-7007.

Ruthmere's mission is to inspire the imagination and promote excellence in fine arts, architecture, and historic preservation and to advocate life-long learning and the entrepreneurial spirit.

We need your assistance to share our mission through your participation in addition to financial support. Please help us further the mission by bringing friends and family for tours and programs throughout the year. Thank you again for your support.

- Laura L. Horst, Membership



FALL CONCERT SERIES

Our concert series this year will feature Ruthmere's famous Steinway piano. All concerts begin at 7p.m. in the Game Room.

The first concert is Friday, October 28. Recognized as one of the leading piano blues artists in the Midwest, Matthew Ball, a.k.a. the 'Boogie Woogie Kid,' will perform blues and boogie-woogie treatments of classic American songs like Swanee River, The Sheik of Araby, Somewhere Over the Rainbow, 12th Street Rag, as well as boogie-woogie standards like Bumble Boogie, Pinetops Boogie-Woogie and The Cow Cow Blues.

Second concert in the series is Friday, November 11, by Jennifer Muniz a faculty member at the IUSB Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts and visiting faculty member at the University of Notre Dame. Jennifer's program will include sonatas by Mozart, Chopin, and an original piano sonata by her husband, Jorge Muniz, a faculty member of the Toradze Piano Studio.

The Ruthmere Piano Concert Series will conclude on Friday, November 25, with a performance from the world renowned pianist and Elkhart native, Nicholas Roth. His program will feature works of Beethoven, Schumann, Liszt, as well as contemporary pieces by Jacob ter Veldhuis and Mischa Zupko.

Member price for tickets is \$10 per concert or \$25 for a series pass. (Non-member price is \$20 per concert). Members at the Silver Patron level and above are admitted free to the concerts. Please call Laura Horst at 574-264-0330 ext. 101 to reserve your seats.

Refreshments will be served following each performance. Audience members are invited to meet the artists and visit with friends to close out the evenings.

ROBERT RECALLS. . .

By ROBERT BEARDSLEY, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ruthmere's Steinway 'D' Concert Grand

In 1970 when I was looking for a big Steinway for the Game Room to accompany our Concert Series, I naturally consulted M. Steinert & Sons, Co. of Boston, the largest Steinway dealer outside of New York City. I say 'naturally' because I lived in Boston at that time and in 1962 bought my own piano from them, a new 1960 Steinway Model 'B.' Mr. Newby, a floor salesman, sold it to me and despite his terrible stuttering problem, sold me forever on Steinway. I was always welcome to their showroom 'to try' the pianos and I was a frequent visitor. As the restoration of Ruthmere proceeded it was time to start looking seriously.

"Your museum needs a concert grand and I think I have just the right one for you. I can give you a very good price." The showroom was wall-to-wall with gorgeous Steinways new and used. Circling the showroom he finally rested his hand on 'our' Steinway 'D.' The 'D' refers to the model and its size, 9 feet, a concert grand, the biggest they make. "I think you will like this one, made in 1955." Steinert always had several big grands 'in house' for the use of touring artists in the area. This was the favorite of Arthur Rubenstein (1887-1982) and he always asked for it. "Please try it!" and he pointed me to the bench.

Well, if it was good enough for Arthur Rubenstein it was good enough for me. And all those who have played it at Ruthmere over the last forty years agree. Its size, action, and the volume of sound, 'pianissimo' to 'fortissimo' is perfect for the Game Room. Please join us for the 2011 Fall Concert Series. Happy Listening!





MARILOU RITCHIE (1926-2011), A TRIBUTE

By ROBERT BEARDSLEY

Marilou has been a part of Ruthmere almost as long as I can remember. Gentle in voice and expression, she was an encyclopedia of information about our Arts Reference Library. "Do we have such and such" I might ask by phone: "Yes, two copies and we don't want any more." And that was just off the top of her head. Tactful and helpful during the tenure of three Executive Directors, her advice and point of view was unerringly correct. She was Editor-in-Chief during the long gestation of my autobiography and offered many helpful strengthening ideas to its writing while never missing a typo. "Now Robert, I think you will find..." accompanied by a low chuckle always preceded good advice sometimes in variance with my writer's ego. I miss her being here for all of us. Friends and loved ones live on in our memories.

Thank you for everything, Marilou.

MARILOU RITCHIE GARDEN ESTABLISHED

BOB EDEL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Through generous contributions to the Ruthmere Foundation, the Marilou Ritchie Memorial Garden is being established at the Havilah Beardsley House. By the request of Marilou's family, memorials were to be given to help with the rehabilitation of the property. It was determined to create the garden because Marilou loved flowers and gardening. The gardens at her home were a favorite hobby and she would be pleased knowing that in her memory a garden at the Havilah Beardsley House will bloom throughout the year.

The garden is being established on the north side of the house to the right of the plaza entrance. To date, a dogwood, several shrubs, and hostas have been planted in the garden. Additional perennials and annuals will be planted to complete the garden. An engraved stone will be placed in the garden designating the memorial site. Thanks to everyone that helped to make this memorial project possible. A dedication ceremony will be held on October 11th at 5 p.m. at the Havilah Beardsley House plaza.



RUTHMERE'S SAMUEL MORSE PAINTING GAINS FAME

JENNIFER JOHNS, PROGRAMS CURATOR

While admiring the artwork on the second floor landing in Ruthmere, you may have seen a small self-portrait of Samuel F.B. Morse. Many visitors are not familiar with him as an artist, but as the inventor of the telegraph and Morse code. Recently, we have had numerous requests to reproduce the image of this painting.

In David McCullough's new book *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris* it is among the images of many American doctors, artists, writers, politicians and architects who studied in Paris from 1830

to 1900. Samuel F.B. Morse spent three years perfecting his skills as a painter and broadening his knowledge of works of art in museums and churches in Paris. One of his most noted paintings is the Gallery of the Louvre which he worked on between 1831 and 1833. In this painting he 'reinstalled' scaled down versions of 16th through 18th century masterpieces from the Louvre's collection into a workshop area for study and sketch. Morse exhibited the painting only twice and received praise from critics but rejection by the public. Soon after, Morse ceased painting altogether and continued down the path of inventor.

The Terra Foundation for American Art in Chicago has recently restored this 6 by 9 foot marvel and has it on exhibit at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. through July 8, 2012. Both institutions requested to use Ruthmere's image of Samuel F.B. Morse. One is using the image as part of an informational label panel and the other created a video that documents the conservation of the painting.

Next time you are admiring the fine pieces of art in Ruthmere, remember that there are many hidden stories behind them.



TWO MONTHS INTO THE PAST: AN INTERNSHIP AT RUTHMERE

By KELSEY SANDERS

Howto sumuptwomonthsofconstant learning in just a few paragraphs? I began by learning the basics. I trained quickly to give tours in both Ruthmere and the Havilah Beardsley House, learning the facts of each home. However, this was not only the rote information of names, dates, and original status, but the stories behind each object. I've often explained, to incredulous science-minded friends questioning my love of what they view as minor details in history, that while science begins with a rush of equations, experiments, and polysyllabic speculation to culminate in a simple answer, history is just the opposite. It takes a simple question, such as "What is on this wall?" and complicates it with each answer, layering politics, fashion, science, and more history onto it, to where books upon books can be written on something as simple as a strip of cloth. The stories and layers give these objects significance.

These stories are even more engrained into Ruthmere, for they can often be embodied by the people who lived there. The layers added are of personality: Albert's concern for fire, Elizabeth's mastery at entertaining, and Stella's morning contemplations come alive, and as a docent I learned to watch for this connection, visible in the guests' eyes, and enrich it. The house museum has more to it than just a museum, and it was fulfilling to allow the guests to 'meet' their hosts.

In addition I learned of the more technical side to running a museum and noted how, in a space supposedly immune to time, it seemed that deadlines were imminent. Behind the stately walls of Ruthmere, messages are incoming, calls are being made, and I can just catch a glimpse of Mr. Firstenberger before he rushes off to another meeting. At first I was a bit shocked by the highly organized almost hive-like experience of the office, but as I became familiar with the routine and noticed less

the flurry and more the activity, I began to see why. Even in the office, hidden details reign supreme, and the amount of planning required to run an average day is shocking. In fighting to preserve the past, the staff fights time in many ways.

However, though I was interested in the hidden processes of Ruthmere and the historical study, I noted most vividly the human details. My experience involved Joy, Ruthmere's Collections Manager, verbally greeting the portrait of George Washington good morning as she attended to his frame. They involved the sensation that the marble that I walked on, banister I held, and doorknobs I touched had been used before me, by people lifetimes away,

who would never know me but who I was connected with. They involved hearing the story of Ruthmere, personalized by each docent, a dozen different ways to reflect their minds and lives. They involved my explaining a candlestick telephone to an eight year old, then promptly wishing I hadn't as she told me how similar it was to her iPhone. Then, yes, they involved my initial inability to use a copier, but I learned.

In every way, Ruthmere was about learning. From what I did to what I bore witness to, I learned of a museum and of the people who are of a museum. I am definitely satisfied with my internship and I am very grateful for the experience.



VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

"Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless." - Unknown

Working with volunteers at Ruthmere and the Havilah Beardsley House has been a great experience. We have a wide variety of individuals that donate time and energy and do it for so many different reasons. We have been diligently recruiting volunteers by radio and newspaper advertisements and have had a great response. Since the beginning of this year, we have 17 new volunteers! Typically one might think of a volunteer at a museum to be someone that is retired; however, that is not the case. Our youngest docents are actually high school age.

Giving tours is only one aspect of volunteering at Ruthmere. We also use volunteers for clerical work, garden help, special programs and data entry for collection items. In August we had 19 volunteers help with the archaeology mini field school held at the Havilah Beardsley House.



Volunteers were involved in all aspects of the Urban Archaeology Project held this summer at the Havilah Beardsley House.

With the opening of the service quarters at Ruthmere and the opening season of tours at the Havilah Beardsley House, we have had an outstanding visitor attendance. We couldn't have done it without all our wonderful volunteers. So next time you visit, please help me say "Thank You" to our volunteers! We can never have too many helping hands, so if you are interested in joining us, please contact me. We would love to have you! – Jennifer Johns, Volunteers

HAVILAH BEARDSLEY HOUSE PROJECT

FOUNDERS' CIRCLE

Robert B. Beardsley
Arthur J. & Patricia Decio
Robert & Mary Pat Deputy
Alice A. & Rex Martin
Joan Beardsley Norris



Arthur J. Decio, evening underwriter, and Mayor Richard Moore.

MATCHING GIFT

Arthur J. & Patricia Decio

DINING ROOM GALLERY

Robert & Peggy Weed



Jack & Karen Cittadine in the Best Parlor with the 1874 Seth Thomas clock.

CONTRIBUTORS

Elkhart County Community Foundation
Anonymous
Craig & Connie Fulmer
James & Patricia Brotherson
George & Kathy Freese
Dorinda Miles Smith
Jack & Karen Cittadine
Laurel Spencer Forsythe
Darlene Adkins
Beryl & Barbara Boss
Stuart & Paula Barb
Linne & Rachel Dose
Steve & Joan Malm
Mary Z. Williams
Marilyn Ronk
Ken & Charlotte Stuff

HAVILAH BEARDSLEY HOUSE UPDATE

GAIL MARTIN, DEVELOPMENT

A summer party was held in August to preview the new restoration that have taken place during the past year through the generosity of Havilah Beardsley House donors and friends. Friends and Ruthmere Foundation board members were thanked for their sustained support in helping to create this symbol of dynamic energy. The creative spirit of this early entrepreneur is beginning to be revealed in details found in the home.

The event centered on the contribution of an 1874 Seth Thomas clock by Karen and Jack Cittadine, who described his interest in clocks and their reason for donating it to the House. Arthur J. and the late Patricia Decio were thanked for their generous matching gift for the Historic Preservation grant which will be submitted in September. This grant will focus on the exterior of the house. In addition, Peggy and the late Robert Weed were thanked for their contribution to the Dining Room Gallery restoration which will begin in October. Mayor Richard Moore capped the evening by unveiling a bronze plaque which had hung in the Municipal Building and is now on loan to the museum.



Gail Martin, Pat Morison and Dining Room Gallery contributor Peggy Weed.

FURNISHINGS DONORS

Tom & Sara Elkin
Jack & Karen Cittadine
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Family of
John E. & Marguerite W. Calvert
Jeffrey S. & Debbie Beardsley
in memory of Edward H. Beardsley
James E. Calvert



Bill Firstenberg shows guests some of the artifacts recently uncovered outside the Havilah Beardsley House during the summer Urban Archaeology project. The partnership with IUSB will continue in 2012 with a field school in June.

MARILOU RITCHIE MEMORIAL

Beth Nellist
Harold & Jane Atkins
Carol Emens
George & Kathy Freese
Elkhart Dalia Club
Robert Edel
Robert & Karin Frey
Richard & Heidi Noser
Jim & Judy Stringfellow
Marilyn Ronk
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Alice & Norman Hessert
Rosemary Mathews
Milton & Marilou Sherrard
Robert & Sally Wegnerowski
Mary Z. Williams
Richard Kemper
Margaret Saul

If you would like to contribute to the Havilah Beardsley House Project, please contact Gail Martin at Ruthmere.

LOUIS COMFORT TIFFANY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS

\$5,000 PLATINUM

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Peter & Lisa Deputy
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Joan Beardsley Norris
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Jack & Karen Cittadine
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Philip & Jeannette Lux



Children's Summer Garden Party

\$250 BRONZE PATRON

Thomas & Dorothy Arnold
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Jim & Lois Bare
Barbara Borneman
Bill & Lori Firstenberger
Laura Funk
Charles & Annick Loving
Robert & Gail Martin

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Marla & Blake Unger
Don & Cidney Walter
Scott & Kim Welch
Betty Wiley
Mary Z. Williams
Ron & Phyllis Wolschlager
Arthur & Suzanne Wyatt
Paul Yoder



Free Family Sunday sponsored by NIBCO

Ruthmere and the Havilah Beardsley House were bustling with activity all spring and summer. Your generous contributions make our programs possible. Thank you!

Join us for the upcoming programs—the Fall Concert Series (page 3), Member's Night November 30 and the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' holiday tour offered November 26–December 30 (page 8), with evening tour times at 6 and 7 p.m. on December 27 and 29.

Thank you for your continued support of the Ruthmere Foundation, please contact us if an update is required.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 4: Free Family Sunday 1-4pm
- 5: Closed for Labor Day
- 3, 10, 17, 24: Starbucks Coffee On The Piazza 9:30am - Noon

OCTOBER

- 2: Free Family Sunday 1-4pm
- 3: Havilah Beardsley House Closed October - March
- 11: Marilou Ritchie Memorial Garden dedication 5pm
- 28: Boogie Woogie Kid - Piano concert 7pm

NOVEMBER

- 6: Free Family Sunday 1-4pm
- 11: Jennifer Muniz - Piano concert 7pm
- 24-25: Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- 25: Nicholas Roth - Piano Concert 7pm
- 26-30: Ruthmere Special Holiday Tours
- 30: Members Night Holiday Tours 6-8pm

DECEMBER

- 1-23: Ruthmere Special Holiday Tours
- 24-26: Closed for Christmas Holiday
- 27-30: Ruthmere Special Holiday Tours
- 27 & 29: Ruthmere Holiday evening tours 6 & 7pm
- Ruthmere Closed for Season January - March

Please check Ruthmere.org for event details.

* Please note the museums are closed on Mondays

Ruthmere

THE RUTHMERE FOUNDATION, INC.
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WWW.RUTHMERE.ORG

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PICTURE PERFECT WEDDINGS AT RUTHMERE

What could be more beautiful than a garden wedding ceremony?

It's late afternoon on a Saturday in June. The sun is shining and there is a slight breeze. The harpist is gently playing Mendelssohn's Wedding March.

It's a garden wedding ceremony on the grounds of the exquisite Edwardian mansion of Albert and Elizabeth Beardsley.

Ruthmere grounds and Game Room are available to provide an unforgettable memory for one of the most important events of your life. Call 574-264-0330 for our wedding brochure or to talk to Annette Kozak our Wedding Coordinator.

MEMBERS NIGHT & HOLIDAY TOURS

Starting Saturday, November 26th Ruthmere will be decorated for the Holiday season. This year's holiday tour will be titled 'The Twelve Days of Christmas Holiday Tour.' The tour information will highlight decorative elements as you hear about everything from 'pipers piping' to 'partridge in a pear tree.' A special members night is planned for Wednesday, November 30th from 6-8pm to celebrate the season. Be sure to attend this highlight evening to experience the tour, enjoy refreshments and make Ruthmere part of your holiday tradition.