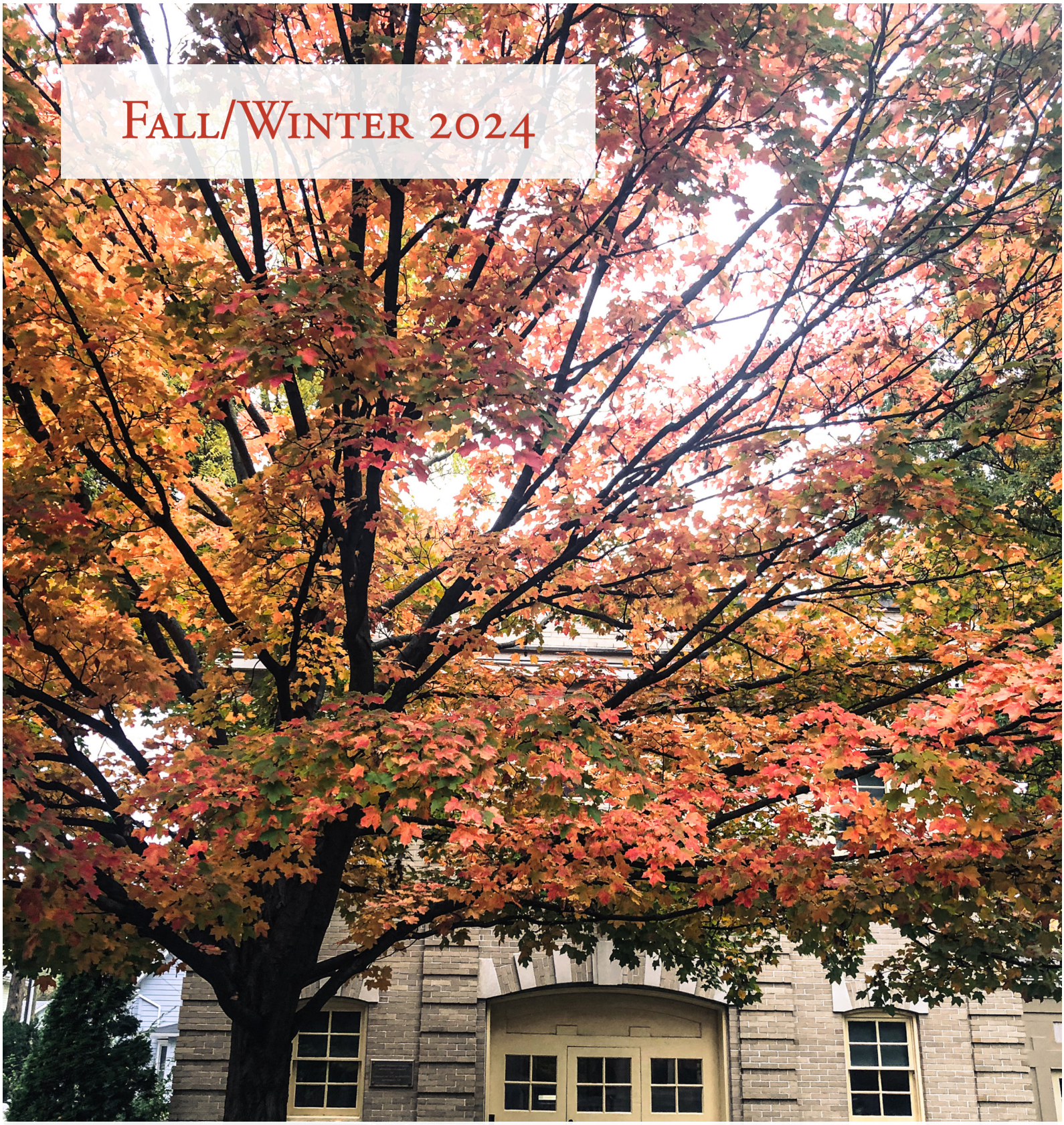


Fall/Winter 2024

The Ruthmere Record

The Ruthmere Foundation, Inc.
302 E. Beardsley Ave. Elkhart, IN 46514

Board of Directors

Executive Committee
Edward A. Beardsley
James A. Bridenstine
Janet Evanega Rieckhoff
George E. Freese
Todd Zeiger

Director Emerita
Dorinda Miles Smith

Board
Robert Deputy
Connie Fulmer
Greg Kil
Ann Knoll
Michael J. Church
Jackson W. Beck
Tom Myers
Cody Combs
Bill Burton
Dan Tychonievich
Becky Deptula
Andrew Beardsley

Museum Staff

Executive Director
Bill Firstenberger

Curator
Jennifer Johns

Collections Manager/Wedding Coordinator
Joy Olsen

Communications Coordinator
Carolyn Bonanno

Membership Coordinator
Mark Doddington

Outreach Curator
Andrea Hutslar

Campus Gardener
Bree Askew

Grants Coordinator
Karen Shirk

Support Staff
Ruth Rockwell

Support Staff
Lucie Larson

Support Staff
Tehillah Moses

Support Staff
Linnea Wuorenmaa

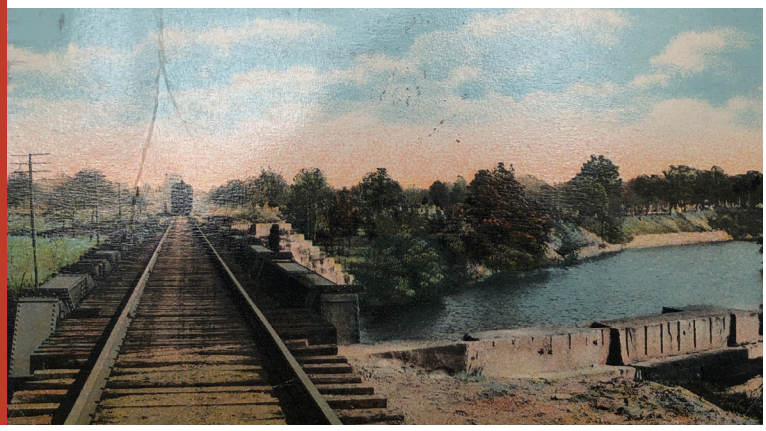
Ruthmere Record Editor - Andrea Hutslar

Fall/Winter 2024 *Ruthmere Record* Sponsor:

Jim Siegmann

◇ In This Issue...

Beardsley Discovery Center Living Up to Its Name.....3
2024 Beardsley Prize Proves the Most Exciting Yet.....4
New Tool for Educators and Parents.....5
Ruthmere Had the Courage to Talk About Slavery.....6
New Pocketsights Tour for Nature Enthusiasts.....7
Ruthmere Members.....8
50th Anniversary Marked by Special Projects.....10
Here We Grow Again.....11
All Aboard for Christmas Tours.....11
2024 Program Sponsors.....12
We've Been Busy at Ruthmere!.....13
Ruthmere's 2024 Fall Concert Series Welcomes New Names.....14
Confronting the Past - The Indigenous Sami People of Norway.....15
Our Wishes Have Been Granted.....16



Beardsley Discovery Center Living Up to Its Name

by William A. Firstenberger, Executive Director

The wait for the Beardsley Discovery Center has been in a word…long; as long as the Beardsley family ancestral line and at times as complicated as their family tree. There's no denying it, and nobody feels this anticipation more than the Ruthmere Board, volunteers, and staff - myself in particular as Executive Director. Today, we have very good news. The wait is almost over.

The complicated process of developing a building and site plan appropriate for a state-of-the-art welcome center to be built within the confines of a historic carriage house and horse stables, embedded in a National Historic District neighborhood, demanded an exceptionally high level of planning and preparation. This is not your ordinary building project.

The building itself is an onion composed of layers representing different owners and uses for over 150 years. Peeling back those layers during the surgically precise demolition phase revealed new complexities and vulnerabilities. Passers by the BDC property have noticed the wood and concrete exoskeleton that engineers required to shore up the structure before the interior could be hollowed out like a Halloween pumpkin. Only once the original agricultural shell of the building was fully exposed could the design plans be finalized and submitted for required review by the State of Indiana Department of Fire and Building Services.



The future BDC with support structures for interior demolition.

In anticipation of the plan's approval, Kil Architecture and Planning and general contractor R. Yoder Construction have the project subcontractors prepared and primed ready for action. We've also teamed up with award-winning video production company DreamOn Studios to create not one, but TWO new videos to welcome our visitors. One video will serve the varying needs of our everyday tourists, and a very special second video will focus on younger visitors and will be narrated by members of the now-famous Mousley family.



DreamOn Studios uses a stuffed mouse as a stand-in for the Mousleys (who will be added in later).

Lastly, we are gearing up staff and a group of specially trained volunteers to assist with our new free genealogy research services that will be offered at the Beardsley Discovery Center. Imagine visitors of all ages learning not just about the history of our community, but the discovery of their own family roots.

I think we will all soon agree; it's been worth the wait.

2024 Beardsley Prize Proves the Most Exciting Yet

by Mark Doddington, Membership Coordinator

By popular opinion, the Seventh Annual Robert Buchanan Beardsley Memorial Piano Prize Competition turned out to be the most compelling to date. From the very beginning, this year proved to be more challenging for judges, competitors, and Ruthmere staff alike.

Taking first-place honors this year was Nayeon Kim of IU Bloomington, who swept to the top with her performance of Franz Liszt's "Etude de Concert, S. 144, No. 2, La Leggerezza" and Frédéric Chopin's "Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise Brillante, Op. 22." Kim, born in 1999, hails from Seoul, South Korea. In addition to the $1000 cash prize, Kim will be returning to Ruthmere on October 17 to open our 2024 Fall Concert Series. This marked her first time competing on a national level, and portends a stellar career.

When asked about her musical interests, Kim replied, "To be honest, I try not to listen to other types of music aside from classical, especially when preparing for important performances or competitions. Classical music has its own unique flow and nuances, and I need to internalize the pulse of the pieces I'm studying, which takes a lot of time. If I don't fully focus on the music I'm working on, I can easily lose that concentration. So when I have a performance coming up, I avoid other genres. However, there are times when I want to take a break from 'study music.' During those times, I usually look for something calm or music with meaningful lyrics. One song that comes to mind is 'Desperado' by the Eagles."

Second prize went to Takeshi Nagayasu of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Born in 1998 in Tokushima, Japan, Nagayasu has been playing seriously since the age of nine. He took home a $300 check for his rendition of pieces by Carl Czerny, Chopin and Alexander Scriabin.

Yujun Cao, of IU Bloomington, claimed third prize, a check for $200, with his performance of works by Liszt and Franz Schubert. Cao was born in Shanghai, China, in 1996 and has been playing seriously since he was four years old.

Rounding out the six finalists were, in alphabetical order, Danish-born Svjatoslav "Slava" Korolev of IU Bloomington; Pun Punyasavatsut of Bangkok, Thailand, currently studying at Ann Arbor; and Shiu Chung "Alex" Wong, a native of Hong Kong, who is currently enrolled at Bloomington, as well. All six finalists brought an unprecedented level of excellence to the Beardsley Prize, and all have great careers ahead of them.

2024 marks the first year that only two schools were represented in the finals, despite the fact that nearly 20 colleges and universities provided entrants. A record 36 entrants applied for the competition, surpassing the 28 hopefuls who entered the first competition back in 2018. Representing a dozen countries from four different continents, and 19 colleges and universities from across the United States, they brought a level of diversity unlike any we've seen yet. Entrants ranged in age from 17 to 29.



FRONT ROW: Shiu Chung "Alex" Wong, Svatoslav "Slava" Korolev, Yujun Cao, Nayeon Kim, Pun Punyasavatsut, & Takeshi Nagayasu. BACK ROW: Dr. Luke Norell (judge), Doug Beardsley (sponsor), Dr. Kate Boyd (judge), and Dr. Chi Yong Yun (judge).

(2024 Beardsley Prize, Cont'd)

This year's competition was shadowed by a couple of upheavals on both sides of the judges' table. One judge was compelled to withdraw for personal reasons, meaning a last-minute replacement was required. Dr. Luke Norell, Director of the Piano Program at Goshen College, generously stepped in to fill the gap. He joined Dr. Chi Yong Yun, Director of Keyboard Studies at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and Dr. Kate Boyd, Piano Area Coordinator at Butler University in Indianapolis. While Drs. Yun and Norell have both judged the Beardsley Prize in previous years, this was the first time we welcomed Dr. Boyd.

The lineup of finalists also underwent a distinct change after the initial six finalists were selected. One of the original choices, HaEun Jung of IU Bloomington, was forced to drop out after receiving a serious hand injury that made it impossible for her to compete.

Ruthmere would also like to extend a personal thank-you to our volunteer, Connie Saltzgaber, for her invaluable assistance in making this year's competition run smoothly, and our sponsor, Doug Beardsley, who has generously supported the competition alongside his late wife, Sharon, for several years.

New Tool for Educators and Parents

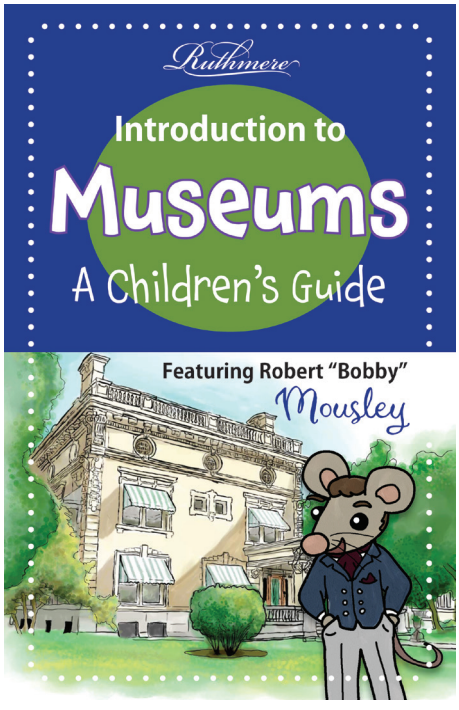
by Andrea Hutslar, Outreach Curator

Sometimes, it's difficult to convey a lot of important information to children - especially when it's about things they aren't allowed to do.

Field trip students are always told the same thing: "look with your eyes, not with your hands," "use marshmallow feet" (that's one I learned from our Collections Manager, Joy, to keep the kids from stomping and running), and "be quiet and listen to your docent - raise your hand when you have questions." We never want to discourage children from wanting to learn and explore, since they will be the ones to take the torch of preservation someday in the distant future. But we also don't want them to grab everything in sight.

That being said, we developed this new booklet: *Introduction to Museums: A Children's Guide.* The book uses a new character from the Mousley family, Bobby the Museum Expert, who walks the reader or listener through all of the important stuff: what museums are, different types of museums, why they're important, why we don't touch artifacts, and all of the things you CAN do in a house museum. Bobby is based on our late founding director, Robert Beardsley, who would probably be thrilled to know that we are teaching children to preserve history, but maybe less thrilled that we named his likeness "Bobby." Even so, he seemed like the perfect person to advocate for museum education, given that he was the one who turned Ruthmere into a museum in the first place.

This helpful guide is available both online and in physical form for educators, parents, and students. You can visit Ruthmere.org/Teacher-Resources to download a copy, or give us a call at (574) 264-0330 if you would like a physical booklet. You can also email me at ahutslar@ruthmere.org to learn more. Our hope is that these semi-complicated messages will be easier for kids to absorb, thereby making their museum experience better and ours less stressful.



Ruthmere Had the Courage to Talk About Slavery

By Deborah Domine
Originally Printed by The Goshen News
on July 1st, 2024

South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union in 1860.



Deborah Domine, Guest Columnist for The Goshen News

And the reason the state gave for leaving was written in the declaration of secession; there, it stated clearly that the reason for leaving was "increasing hostility on the part of the non-slaveholding States to the institution of slavery."

South Carolina and those states that followed left the union because they wanted to preserve slavery. And yet in one Southern Poverty Legal Center poll only 8% of high school seniors knew that fact.

Slavery is part of our history. A part that columnist Rochelle Riley says, "evokes emotions so strong that many Americans demand we no longer speak of it." Hasan Kwame Jeffries of The Ohio State University says, "slavery is hard history." That is why Elkhart's Ruthmere should be praised for addressing slavery as part of its Lincoln Penny Story Hour on Juneteenth.

Teaching about slavery has become a controversial topic to discuss. Slate magazine reports that critics who have rallied under the banner of anti-critical race theory call education on the topic of slavery "divisive and disturbing."

And yet, Ruthmere's executive director Bill Firstenberger says, "we cannot hide or run away from our past." He says that part of Ruthmere's mission is to be a leading center for arts, culture and history in northern Indiana, and slavery is a topic that that cannot be ignored.

Firstenberger says that while there is a fence around the architectural masterpiece of Ruthmere, he wants it to be a place that is welcoming to everyone in the community.

That is what the Lincoln Penny Story Hour is all about. It is billed not as fund-raiser, but "a consciousness raiser."

LPSH is about reading the stories that tell about the rich cultural diversity of our community. The program is about books, with a target audience of children. Every event features a different book and always one that celebrates our diverse histories.

The Juneteenth story was sponsored by Indiana Humanities. It featured a book called "Freedom Over Me" by Ashley Bryan. The book began with a real bill of sale for 11 people.

Some of the people were young, some of them were old. They were all sold as slaves. And the book told their stories and their dreams of freedom, even when everything else was taken from them.

Local artist, poet and former educator Jake Webster was tasked with bringing the book to life. He told the children and adults who listened that "he had traveled all over the world as an artist, and no one ever asked me to do a program about slavery."



Guest reader/speaker Jake Webster discusses Freedom Over Me *with guests.*

(Ruthmere had the courage, cont'd)
He said he was proud that he was part of the Ruthmere event and the healing process.

He said we don't talk about slavery enough because it makes people feel bad, but it is necessary if we are going to move forward in this, the greatest nation on earth.

Neither the children nor the adults who sat in the audience and listened to the reading seemed to feel bad or uncomfortable. The preschooler with blonde hair who sat in front of me smiled from the start of the program until the end, when he and his older brother stayed to ask questions.

Slavery is a difficult subject to teach. It is a topic that requires us to think about those people who came before us. And requires us to think about how we can do better.

At the end of the story, each of those who listened was given a Lincoln Penny. Firstenberger explained that pennies are symbolic. Pennies come in many different colors and yet they are each worth the same amount. Together they are worth a whole lot more.

Thanks to Ruthmere for the reminder.

New Pocketsights Tour for Nature Enthusiasts

By Andrea Hutslar, Outreach Curator

We now have a new free self-guided mobile tour available on Pocketsights: The Beardsley Avenue District Tree Tour! For those who are not familiar with our mobile tour platform, Pocketsights is a handy app that allows you to take various self-guided tours around Elkhart (and other places around the country, but the focus is Elkhart where we're concerned). Other tours, such as the Band Instrument Industry Tour or the E. Hill Turnock Architectural Tour, take you to important historic sites related to their respective topics. We also have the History Hike for Fitness for those who want to learn about the history of Elkhart while staying active. This new tour is exactly what it sounds like - a pleasant walk around Ruthmere's neighborhood to look at and learn about various trees.

I developed this tour alongside Bree Askew, our Campus Gardener, with some assistance from Kiera Johns, Director and Ranger of the Mishawaka Res. The three of us spent a sunny afternoon walking the neighborhood and identifying various trees - and by "we," I mean "they." I was more or less along for the ride, writing down everything the two more experienced plant experts told me so I could cobble it all together later.

The tour is a great way to kill some time before a tour begins if you're stuck waiting outside. There are 17 different trees to learn about, starting on Ruthmere's own front lawn with the lovely white birch trees that lean over the driveway and ending at a northern catalpa across the road at Beardsley Park. Learn fun tidbits about how these trees are used, their place in history, and what they produce - seeds, flowers, fruit, cones, or nuts?

To get the app, simply go to the App Store if you have an iPhone, or the Google Play store for Androids. You can also visit the website by going to Ruthmere.org and clicking "SMARTPHONE TOURS" near the top. Remember, the app and all of the tours are free, so go check it out!

The Beardsley Avenue District Tree Tour is generously sponsored by Kallimani Tree Services - thank you!

PocketSights



Ruthmere Members

Business Membership

Anderson Photography
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Bill Deputy Foundation
Coppins Investigative Group
D's Nutz Donuts
1st Source Bank
Friends of Elkhart Public Library
Gibson Insurance
Goshen Public Library
Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce
Hotel Elkhart
Indiana Trust Wealth Management
Nappanee Public Library
Patricia Tokar Canton, CPA PC
Pulaski County Public Library
St. Joseph County Public Library
Stephenson's of Elkhart
THK Law, LLP
Welch Packaging Group, Inc.

Private Membership

Monica Abair
Marty & Deb Abrams
Mary Adams
Bonnie & Larry Anderson
Bruce & Diann Anglemyer
Marilynn Anson
Linda Armstrong
Thomas & Dottie Arnold
Hans & Christina Ashbaugh
Eddie Askew
Leon & Toni Askew
Jan Atwood
Steve & Julie Bachman
Stuart & Paula Barb
Steve & Jean Barton
Douglas W. Beardsley
Edward & Mary Jo Beardsley
Jackson & Kaeli Beck
Heather Becker
Steve & Ruth Ann Berger
Judith Berkshire
Mona Biddlecome
Carolyn Bonanno & Howard Higby
Vickie Bonfiglio
Becky Bontreger
Doug Boquist
Colten Brandt
Nick Brichetto
Jim & Sheila Bridenstine
Patty Brotherson
Bill & Debby Burton
Kathy Case
Julia Castello
Jan Cawley
Erik Cedarquist
Michelle & Michael Church
Jack & Karen Cittadine
Stan & Joan Cohen
Richard & Kathleen Collins
Bruce & Deidre Combs
Cameron Combs
Cody Combs
Jody & Bill Comer
Joel Conrad
Doug Cripe
John & Stacey Datena
Nancy Denlinger
Rober Deputy
Shani & Ganesh Desilva
Des DeVries
Mark Doddington
Linné & Rachel Dosé
Laura Doty
Shauna & Frank Duchon
Allie Duncan & Preston Hershberger
Cynthia Dunlop
Bob Edel
Libby & Tom Eisele
Carol Eldridge
Tom & Sara Elkin
Kay Eller
Carole Elliot
Cathy Ellsworth
Carol Emens
Kent & Lucy Emery
Alex Evans & Amanda Bailey
Cindy & Lee Evers
John & Sharon Feddersen
Gwen Ferland
Judy Findlay
Bill & Lori Firstenberger
Dawn Fisher
Jeff & Linda Fizer
Sally Flanders
Kathy & Steve Fledderman
Barb Fougerousse
Marilyn Fraider
Don & Dianne Frandsen
John & Margaret Frechette
George & Kathy Freese
Robert & Karin Frey
Connie Fulmer
Laura Funk
Brian Gardner
Eric & Jaime Garton
John & Gwen Gildea
Gary & Elaine Gillespie
Peter & Mary Graber
Douglas & Karen Grant
Abigail Gratzol
Elizabeth Green
Verna Greenlee
Elaine Griffen
Kraig Grover
Anna Hagen
Beth Hall
Elizabeth Hall
Dot Hansen
James Heiden
Mary Jane Hiles
MaryBeth Hoffer
Kathy & Brent Holaway
Samuel & Debra Hoover
Laura & Randy Horst
Gordon & Phyllis Hostetler
Jep & Joyce Hostetler
Rebecca Hostetler
Autumn Hostetter
Cheryl Howie
Frank & Jackie Hughes
Andrea Hutslar
John Iluno
Kate Irelan
Moe Jacobson
Benjamin Jeffery
Dreama Jensen
Jennifer Johns
Brenda & Randall Johnson
Elena Jones

Barbara Keck
Betty Kegerreis
Jim Kelly
Judy Kelly
Pat Kelm
Celia & Charlie Kirk
Judy Kistner
Neil & Pat Klockow
Ann Knoll
Christine Kralovansky
Reagan & Matthew Krouse
Debbie Kulwicki
Carolyn Lamble
Tuck & Janice Langland
Julie & Jason Large
David T. & Susan Ball Lehman
Sharon Lemmon
Diane Lewandowski
Jan Longcor
Michelle & Ralph Lucchese
Steve & Maralee Macumber
Shawn Maier
Donna Martin
Eileen Martin
Margaret Mathias Martin
Robert & Gail Martin
DiAnn Mathews
Ray & Mary Pat Mathis
Jonnai Mauch & Brent Hussung
Wade Mayberry
Rebecca Mayfield
Barbara McArthur
Julia McLafferty
William & Linda Meyer
Ruth Middleton
Margaret Miller
Dave Miller & Patty Peterson
Connie Minzey
Miguel Muzquiz
Tom Myers
Barb Naranche
Kelley Nease & Mike Perez
Tom & Sue Neat
Joe & Cindy Neer
Karen Nicholson
Michael Nicolini
Earlene & Roger Nofziger
Christine Nogales
Barbara Obenchain
Cathy Deputy O'Connor
Juan Olvera
Donald & Gayle Parker
Leah Peat
Jan & Nick Pellus
Leanne Pettit
Kathy Pfister
Dena Phillips
Rachele Plencner
Lauren & Dalton Pletcher
Steve & Jane Poe
John Pollard
Mary & Jim Rasp
Kris Reiff
Steve Reim
James & Janet Evanega Rieckhoff
Keith & Karen Riffel
Nancy Rinke
Rusty & Anita Ritchie
Ruth Rockwell
Donna Rodwick
Connie Roeglin
Dianna Roman
Kirk Root
Willard & Alice Roth
Nicholas Roth & Joe Freund
Kay Roy
Carter Ruml
Linda Rupnow
Connie Saltzgaber
Dale & Shelly Seely
Jacob & Kimberly Shearer
Carolyn Shelley
Tim & Meg Shelly
James Siegmann
Linda Sinon
Becky Skipper
Nancy Slimak
Brian & Lauri Smith
Dorinda Miles Smith
Marie Smith
Jon & Carol Smoker
Loretta Souder
Tamela Spicer
Marc & Kris Stahl
Jeri Stahr
Connie Stamper
Kirk & Linda Stolley
Raymond & Teri Stout
Amber & Kent Taylor
Matt Thomas
Valerie Thompson
Terry Trimmer
Eric Trotter
Brenda & Michael Tudor
Dan & Lisa Tychonievich
Becky Tyson
Patricia Van Dyke
Sandra Van Tilburg
Marcia VanZile
Sueann VonGunten
Cheryl Waldman
Bill Walter
Steven Watterson
Tiana Zornow Webb
Dave & Mary Weber
Marty Weber
Pam Weinland
Steve & Carol Weld
Jeff & Phid Wells
Larry & Elizabeth Westfall
Jacque & Len Wilson
Jacqueline Kuhn Wonso
Judy & Terry Wood
Ann Wroblewski
Linnea Wuorenmaa
Arthur & Suzanne Wyatt
Ryan Wybo
Jay Yi
Teryl Yoder
Todd & Terri Zeiger
Nadine Zerger
Deb & Meg Zimmerman
Karen Zusman

Learn about our membership and support structure at Ruthmere.org.

Do you have questions or need to update your membership? Contact Membership Coordinator Mark Doddington at (574) 264-0330 ext. 107 or mdoddington@ruthmere.org.

50th Anniversary Marked by Special Projects

by William A. Firstenberger, Executive Director

Ruthmere Museum's 50th Anniversary has set the stage for transformative change. Our campus continues to grow strategically, but every property comes with its own set of needs and maintenance requirements. In preparation for the grand opening of the Beardsley Discovery Center in 2025, the Board of Directors set the goal of having every Ruthmere property brought up to prime condition. The list of accomplishments over the past several months is impressive and the pace has been intense.

In March, new property was acquired adjacent to a little-known building on Ruthmere Campus referred to as the Pony Barn, a beautiful untouched gem of a bank barn next to Christiana Creek. These new lots, plus the vacation of the City alley between the lots and the Pony Barn, will allow us to build an inexpensive and effective loading dock to the west side of the Pony Barn, thus maximizing its utility for cold dry storage of exhibit props and events equipment. In June, we held an "Acts of Service Clean-up Day" at the Gordon Lots/Pony Barn with the help of the CFEC's coordination and the great employees of Genesis Products. Over 20 employees dedicated time and effort that day to help our Campus Gardener, Bree Askew, clean up and clear out debris at this location in preparation for building the small loading dock, a critical logistical piece of the Beardsley Discovery Center project. This summer the Pony Barn also received a new roof and fresh paint on all wooden surfaces. This was just one property.



The Pony Barn

At the tail end of winter, Ruthmere's foundation was trenched and waterproofed as a preventative long-term measure to ensure this architectural treasure remains pristine in perpetuity. During the summer, Ruthmere's perimeter wall was carefully power-washed and mortar joints tuckpointed. We also recently built a new privacy fence on the east side of the Quilt Garden lot, which will greatly improve this space for large events.

From June to August, new roofs and paint were also completed on the 303 Crawford St. Administration Building and its detached garage as well as Ruthmere's garden shed. Creek House and its garage were also freshly painted, as was the Havilah Beardsley House after the repair of the front porch eave and fascia.

Through the generous support of the Jeffris Foundation and the future-vision planning of the Ruthmere Board, our organization committed to the completion of an updated HSR (historic structures report) at both Ruthmere and the Havilah Beardsley House. Kil Architecture and Planning was hired as the lead architect, having amassed an impressive interdisciplinary team of professionals for their proposal. An immediate goal upon completion of these HSRs will be the re-nomination of our sites for improved status as National Register Historic Sites.

The end of our golden year has our facilities shining bright.



Ruthmere's offices at 303 E. Crawford

Here We Grow Again

by Jennifer Johns, Curator

Here we grow again - as a staff, that is. We are pleased to introduce Linnea Wuorenmaa as part of our support staff. She will be working weekends as well as helping out during the week as needed. Linnea has recently moved to Elkhart from Colorado Springs, Colorado. She attributes her passion for historic preservation, learning pathways, and community engagement to her parents, both of whom are life-long educators.

Growing up in and around museums and historic properties, Linnea began volunteering in 2017 and has many years of experience as a former Junior Docent and Education Intern with the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, as well as a Tour Docent with the McAllister House Museum.

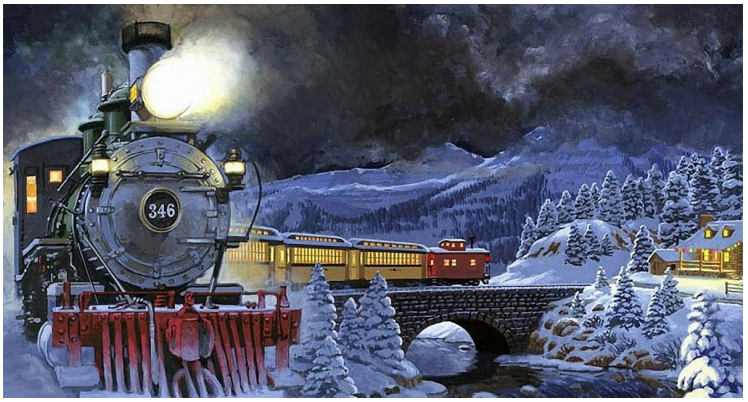
Following a move to Fort Collins, Colorado, Linnea worked at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery with the Museum's Visitor Experience Team. As a volunteer, she partnered with the Poudre Landmarks Foundation to expand educational and interpretive engagement opportunities offered at the 1883 Water Works and 1879 Avery House.

We look forward to having Linnea join our team!



All Aboard for Christmas Tours

by Carolyn Bonanno, Joy Olsen, & Andrea Hutslar



"All Aboard the Holiday Express" is the theme for Ruthmere's 2024 holiday tours! Each room of the museum will be decorated with vintage and modern-day train décor and model trains, some of which will be on loan from various collectors throughout Michiana. Every year, a decorating committee puts their minds together to create an unforgettable experience of holiday décor and Christmas cheer. Never before has a train motif been considered for the elegant mansion.

Our theme, "All Aboard the Holiday Express," captures the glory days of when America's railroads were symbols of progress. Elkhart has a rich history with the railroad, starting in 1851 when the first railroad arrived in our county. Along with it came a significant increase in population and jobs, greatly shaping the physical, social, and economic landscape of Elkhart. The Norfolk Southern Railway's Elkhart Yard is the largest railroad freight classification yard east of the Mississippi River; as such, Elkhart functions as a vital link in the chain connecting the Atlantic Seaboard with the Midwest and beyond.

Bring the whole family to appreciate not only the splendor of Ruthmere's stunning Christmas décor, but also the rich history behind trains and engineering. Our holiday tours begin on November 30th and run through December 29th, 2024. Regular hours and admission rates apply. Visit Ruthmere.org for more information. All aboard!

2024 Program Sponsors

We would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who became a sponsor for any of our programs for this year! Thanks to your generous contributions, we are able to continue to offer wonderful programs for our guests month after month. If you would like to see your name on this list for next year, reach out to Bill Firstenberger at bfirstenberger@ruthmere.org or (574) 264-0330 (ext. 105).

Gallery Talks

Individual Talk Sponsors:
Steve & Jean Barton
Mark Doddington
Margaret & John Frechette
Beth Hall
Brenda & Randall Johnson
Wade Mayberry
Karen Nicholson
Dale & Shelly Seely
Sam Sommers
Brenda & Michael Tudor
Ann Wroblewski

Seasonal Teas

Mother & Me Speaker Sponsor:
Debbie Kulwicki

Free Family Sundays

Presenting Sponsor:
Community Foundation of Elkhart County

Ice Cream Social

Feature Sponsor:
1st Source Bank

Concert Series

Presenting Sponsor:
Ray & Mary Pat Mathis

Robert Beardsley Piano Prize Competition Sponsor:
Douglas Beardsley

Individual Spring Concert Sponsors:
Janet Evanega Rieckhoff & James Rieckhoff
Jim Kelly
Wade Mayberry
Marie Smith

2024 All Receptions Sponsor:
Jon Smoker

2024 Annual Season Sponsors:
Dale & Shelly Seely

Spring Series Sponsors:
Janet Evanega Rieckhoff & James Rieckhoff
Nicholas Roth & Joe Freund
Brenda & Michael Tudor

Individual Fall Concert Sponsors:
Janet Evanega Rieckhoff & Jim Rieckhoff
Wade Mayberry
Marie Smith
Terry Trimmer
Eric Trotter

Fall Series Sponsors:
Dena Phillips
Sandra Van Tilburg

Coffee on the Piazza

Presenting Sponsor:
Tom Myers

50th Anniversary Coffee Club Sponsors:
Marilynn Anson
Steve & Jean Barton
Doug Cripe
Laura Doty
Bill & Lori Firstenberger
Fran Firstenberger
Barb Fougerousse
Brian & Marcy Gardner
Arlene Manderfeld
Dave Miller
Mary & Jim Rasp
Marc & Kris Stahl
Kirk & Linda Stolley
Brenda & Michael Tudor
Sue Williams

Lincoln Penny Story Hour

Series Sponsor:
Centier Bank
Event Sponsor:
Centier Bank

Exhibit: *The Global Language of Headwear*

Presenting Sponsors:
Steve & Julie Bachman

Christiana Neighborhood Day

Presenting Sponsor:
Bill Deputy Foundation

Good Neighbor Membership Sponsor:
1st Source Bank

Partner Sponsorship:
Wellfield Botanic Gardens

Ceramic Showcase

Presenting Sponsors:
Jack & Karen Cittadine

Murder Mystery Dinner

Presenting Sponsor:
Coppins Investigative & Security Group, Inc.

The Ruthmere Record

Spring Issue:
Dick (In Memoriam) & Linda Armstrong
Fall Issue:
Jim Siegmann

Volunteer Support

Presenting Sponsor:
KeyBank

Off-the-Record

April:
Kathy Pfister

Pocketsights Tours

Beardsley Avenue District Tree Tour
Kallimani Tree Services



We've Been Busy at Ruthmere!



Ruthmere's 2024 Quilt Garden, "Discovery in Bloom"



Guests grab a cool treat at our triple-event: Free Family Sunday, Ice Cream Social, & Christiana Neighborhood Day



Coffee on the Piazza guests fill the lawn to listen to our musical performers: Sentimental Journeys, a 20-piece swing band



The Global Language of Headwear: Cultural Identity, Rites of Passage, and Spirituality *on display at the Havilah Beardsley House*



Ruthmere staff Tehillah Moses and Lucie Larson help some young guests with their crafts at the Mousley Tea & Craft Party



2024 Annual Ruthmere Ceramic Showcase on the East Lawn with our new partners, the Northern Indiana Clay Alliance

Ruthmere's 2024 Fall Concert Series Welcomes New Names

by Mark Doddington, Membership Coordinator

Ruthmere is gearing up for the 2024 Fall Concert Series. In addition to a long-standing hometown favorite, we will welcome three new names to the Game Room.

In a way, none of these newcomers are truly new to Ruthmere, as each has appeared here in one capacity or another over the last few years.

Leading off this season is the First Prize winner of the Seventh Annual Beardsley Prize Piano Competition, Nayeon Kim. Born in Seoul, South Korea in 1999, Kim is the second woman to claim the Beardsley brass ring. She will be performing on Thursday, October 17, and will feature the music that propelled her into the winning spot along with other selections.

One week later, on October 24, former Beardsley Prize competitor Clare Longendyke will make her first return since 2019, when she performed pieces by Maurice Ravel and Ludwig van Beethoven in the Second Annual competition. Longendyke earned her Doctor of Music degree from IU Bloomington's Jacobs School of Music, and has performed internationally to high acclaim.

Dr. Franklin Larey, South Africa's leading light in the piano milieu, judged the Fifth Annual Beardsley Prize in 2022. Following a growing tradition, Larey will be the latest judge to perform at Ruthmere. Dr. Larey received his Doctor of Music degree from the University of Cincinnati, and has studied, taught, competed and performed in venues around the globe. He will be back to play in the Game Room on November 14.

Following a long tradition at Ruthmere, Elkhart's own Nicholas Roth will close out the season on Friday, November 29. Roth, a Doctor of Music at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, received his top degree from Michigan State University. As a young man in Elkhart, he spent much time practicing in Ruthmere's Game Room, and has made a second home for himself in our yearly Fall Concert Schedule.

Ticket prices for the Fall Concert Series are $20 for Ruthmere members, $50 for non-members. Ruthmere members may also purchase a Season Ticket for $80. For further details, visit Ruthmere.org or call (574) 264-0330 to reserve seats.

2024 Fall Concert Lineup



October 17
Winner of the Beardsley Piano Prize: Nayeon Kim
Sponsored by Wade Mayberry and Janet Evanega Rieckhoff & Jim Rieckhoff



October 24
Clare Longendyke
Sponsored by Marie Smith



November 14
Franklin Larey
Sponsored by Eric Trotter



November 29
Nicholas Roth
Sponsored by Terry Trimmer

Presenting Sponsors
Ray & Mary Pat Mathis

Concert Receptions Sponsor
Jon Smoker

2024 Annual Season Sponsors
Dale & Shelly Seely

Fall Series Sponsors
Dena Phillips
Sandra Van Tilburg

Confronting the Past - The Indigenous Sami People of Norway

By Tehillah Moses, Support Staff

The recent exhibit at the Havilah Beardsley House titled *The Global Language of Headwear* was more than just a collection of hats. It was an education and celebration of different cultures across the world and encouraged me to learn more about my own family culture. When I first walked into the Family Parlor at the Havilah Beardsley house, I immediately recognized the two hats from Norway. Twenty-two years ago, I was visiting family in Norway and my aunt Solveig gave me a doll with the same hat on it as the one I saw in the exhibit. My aunt Solveig lives in the very northernmost part of Norway, call Finnmark, and is part of the Sami indigenous people. She spent years making these traditional clothes and teaching others how to make them.

The Sami people of Norway are known to originally be reindeer herders and they live in the northernmost regions of Norway. They are different from Norwegian people because they have a separate culture with different clothes, food, music and languages. Much like America's Native Americans, a lot of their culture was lost through the Norwegian government "Norwegianizing" the Sami people in the past, but particularly in the 1940s. In the late 1990s, the Norwegian Government showed bravery by making a formal apology to the Sami people and amended their constitution so the Sami would be recognized as an indigenous culture. Now, the Sami are experiencing a renaissance of their culture, and they even have their own parliament. Modern day Sami people are interspersed through cities in Northern Norway wearing modern clothing, but they will use traditional dress for holidays and special occasions.

Norwegian culture, including the Sami people, have also influenced Disney in their production of the popular movies *Frozen* and *Frozen 2*. Both movies are influenced by Norwegian culture, but Disney collaborated with the Sami people and reached an agreement on how the fictional Northuldra people would be appropriately portrayed in the second movie. The opening song in *Frozen 2*, sung by the Northuldra people, is very similar to a joik, which is a cultural song of the Sami people. The Northuldra people also wear clothing like the Sami people, and they have reindeer, just as the traditional Sami people. One could even argue that a sub-plot of the movie to confront the past is also inspired by the Norwegian government apologizing to the Sami people for how they were treated.

These *Frozen* movies have been my 6 year old daughter's favorite movies, and I like watching them with her because I understand the cultural influences in the movies and have fond memories of traveling there to visit family. Perhaps she was intuitively drawn to them because of family history, but when she is older, she will understand the depth of the culture and the lessons behind these movies.



Ruthmere
An Experience in History, Art & Architecture
The Ruthmere Foundation, Inc.
302 East Beardsley Avenue
Elkhart, Indiana 46514
(574) 264-0330
www.Ruthmere.org

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 71
GOSHEN, IN 46526

Ruthmere is supported by its membership, private donations, planned gifts, and legacies.

Our Wishes Have Been Granted

By Karen Shirk, Grants Coordinator

Not many children say, "I want to work at a museum when I grow up." In fact, I never gave much thought to the people behind the scenes at the many museums my parents took me to as a child. It wasn't until college that I was able to pursue my love of history and my passion for writing but I still wasn't sure where that would lead me. I began my career in a non-profit, and with it began my work in grant writing. When I became the Grants Coordinator for the Ruthmere Museum Campus late last year, it was a way for me to combine both of those passions again. Since then, I've been busy writing grant proposals to support the exceptional educational and cultural programming created by our amazing staff and to help their preservation efforts to ensure that these historic structures are here for many more years to come.

I, along with the entire Ruthmere staff, are excited to announce that the following organizations have generously granted funds to help us continue to engage and inspire our community through the exploration of history, architecture and the arts.

Thank you to:

Indiana Humanities
for support of *The Global Language of Headwear* special exhibit

Monogram Foods Loves Kids Foundation
for support of our School Field Trip Assistance program

Efroymson Family Endangered Places Fund with Indiana Landmarks
for support of Historic Structures reports for Ruthmere and Havilah Beardsley House

Indiana Arts Commission and the Community Foundation of Elkhart County
for support of our arts and cultural programming

Community Foundation of Elkhart County
for support of staff and volunteer development programs