

The Ruthmere Record

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

FALL/WINTER 2018

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GIVE LIKE A CHAMPION!

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ruthmere Champions Spotlight – Doug and Barbara Grant



Doug and Barbara Grant at the 2017 One Night at Ruthmere

Ruthmere lost more than a Champion with the passing of Barbara Grant on September 6th, indeed the impact will be felt by the entire Elkhart community. Barbara was a ray of sunshine and stalwart supporter for nearly every cultural organization in our region. A true lover of the arts and a superior athlete, Barb's passion will forever be remembered, as will her impeccable sense of style and grace. We will dearly miss our "Lady with the feathers in her hair."

On May 10th Ruthmere took a bold new step toward permanent financial sustainability with the launch of our new Ruthmere Champions giving campaign. The inaugural Breakfast of Champions event was hosted by Ruthmere Board member Connie Fulmer at the historic YWCA building on Lexington Avenue, the building that she and her late husband Craig lovingly restored. Both Ruthmere and "The Y" were designed by noted Elkhart architect E. Hill Turnock, and Connie's poignant comparison of these two "sister buildings" culminated with her heartfelt plea: "The time has come for all of us to take care of our older sister, Ruthmere, now and forever."

Her appeal was warmly received. Since that community breakfast in May, Ruthmere Champions have committed \$535,125 of support to the campaign. The goal is to raise \$200,000 annually in additional program support while simultaneously building a \$5 million endowment. (continued on page 4)

Ruthmere Record Editor - Carolyn Bonanno

CHARLES DANA GIBSON - 1867-1944 - OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD

By ROBERT B. BEARDSLEY, FOUNDING DIRECTOR



Every year since Ruthmere opened as a museum in September 1973 (45 years ago), we have sent our friends Christmas cards of images associated with Ruthmere and its campus and, more recently, of our ever-growing collection of artwork and memorabilia.

This year the card is a large pen and ink drawing by the American graphic artist Charles Dana Gibson (1867-1944). We know it only as “The Dinner Party.” Famous for his iconic “Gibson Girl” image that set the standard for American feminine beauty around 1900, his original work hangs in the butler’s pantry at Ruthmere next to the dining room by the swinging door.

In case you think it’s too humbly placed for a work of Gibson’s importance, may I remind you that part of the dinner service (used when Abraham Lincoln was entertained at lunch at the Ohio Governor’s Mansion in Columbus during his run for the presidency in 1860), is in the butler’s pantry as well.

Where did Gibson’s work come from? Was it a gift? When did we get it? Those are all questions I can’t answer except through the distant haze of the long-ago. But I assure you it is a prize, and lucky are we to count it among our treasures. A number of works about C.D. Gibson are in our Arts Reference Library, I add. *“Ad maiorem Ruthmereiensis gloriam!”*

I can also tell you “The Dinner Party” has given our visitors over the years much entertainment and amusement. We offer it as an example of our collection in the spirit of family and Christmas. It looks like somebody’s having a party!

As Albert and Elizabeth put it in their 1906 Christmas Card from Venice (four years after the Campanile fell down):

“Even though we’re far away,
Our thoughts they do pursue you.
This is to say with all our Hearts,
A Merry Christmas to you.”



“The Dinner Party” by Charles Dana Gibson

HISTORY AND MUSIC GO HAND IN HAND AT RUTHMERE

By MARK DODDINGTON, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

In a venue known for its high-quality musical offerings, Ruthmere Museum reached new heights of glory on Saturday, September 15, 2018, with the First Annual Robert B. Beardsley Piano Prize Competition. Five of the finest young musicians in the nation competed in the Ruthmere Game Room for a top prize of \$1,000 and an opening slot at the first installment of this year's Fall Concert Series.

St. Louis native, Nicholas Susi, emerged victorious, taking his place alongside time-honored Ruthmere entertainer Nicholas Roth, last year's honorary Beardsley Prize recipient. With a transcendent program of Franz Liszt's (1811 – 1886) *Deux légendes*, S. 175 (I. St. François d'Assise: La prédication aux oiseaux; II. St. François de Paule marchant sur les flots), Susi captivated a small but enthusiastic audience for the win.

Susi's victory was by no means an easy feat, as the competition this first year was fierce. Fellow finalists Ariadne Antipa, Hyeseon Jin, Kyunghoon Kim, and Vijay Venkatesh each took a vigorous turn at the museum's 1955 Steinway in hopes of taking home the grand prize. Strains of Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Cowell, Prokofiev, Beethoven, Granados and Scarlatti enveloped the Game Room over the course of three hours, redefining Ruthmere's place in the realm of classical music venues.

Antipa and Venkatesh both hail from California, while Jin and Kim are both natives of Seoul, South Korea. All five finalists are accomplished musicians with a globe-encircling list of performances and competitions to their credit. Jin, Kim and Venkatesh are students at Jacobs School of Music, IU-Bloomington, while Antipa is studying at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music.

In the preliminary competition round, twenty-eight aspiring musicians submitted video links for the judges' consideration. The judges were tasked with the duty of whittling this list down to six finalists, by no means an easy task, as the quality of entries was universally top-notch. Videos for all finalists can be found on YouTube, and are well worth seeking out.

Currently residing in Duluth, Minnesota, Susi is an Associate Professor of Music at the College of St. Scholastica. Among his accomplishments are two command performances for Germany's Maja, Princess von Hohenzollern, noted philanthropist and cancer research advocate. His first CD, "Scarlatti Now," has received critical attention and radio play across America.

In addition to his cash prize, Susi will have his name inscribed along with Roth's, to stand beside the Beardsley Cup on permanent display at Ruthmere. Susi will also open for the Norell Piano Duo at the opening Fall Concert on October 11, 2018, at 7:00 pm.

The Norells, Luke and Mary Rose, also served as judges for the Beardsley Prize, along with Indiana Wesleyan Associate Professor Dr. Daniel Lin. Drs. Luke and Mary Rose Norell are both Directors at the Community School of the Arts located at the Goshen College Music Center. All three judges have signed on to adjudicate the 2019 Beardsley Piano Prize Competition.



Dr. Daniel Lin, Hyeseon Jin, Ariadne Antipa, Vijay Venkatesh, Nick Susi, Kyunghoon Kim, Dr. Mary Rose Norell, Dr. Luke Norell

GIVE LIKE A CHAMPION! (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Ruthmere Champions concept is simple. To be recognized as a Ruthmere Champion a collective gift commitment of \$25,000 or more is made to Ruthmere holdings over a 1-to 5-year period. Qualifying Champion support includes membership, Ruthmere Forever gifts, special event underwriting, and program sponsorships. Champion gifts can go toward endowed funds (which earn an additional match) that build long-term sustainability, or directly toward current Ruthmere program needs. Finally, Champions can be individuals, businesses, or teams.

Contact Executive Director Bill Firstenberger at 574-264-0330 ext. 105 or at bfirstenberger@ruthmere.org to learn more about becoming a Ruthmere Champion today!

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Karen Nicholson
Terry Trimmer

2018 RUTHMERE BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS



HISTORIC CEMETERY TOUR AND GHOST HUNT

By VICTORIA JOHNSTON, OUTREACH CURATOR & MARK DODDINGTON, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

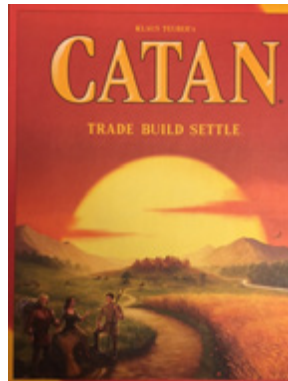
Grace Lawn Cemetery is the final resting place of many Beardsley family members, including Elizabeth, Albert and Ruth Beardsley. Come see the Beardsley family mausoleum and listen to local folklore and history on Saturday, October 27th (with rain date scheduled for Sunday, October 28th). Two tours are scheduled (4:30pm to 5:30pm and 5:30pm to 6:30pm) and both will end inside the Beardsley Mausoleum. Paths will be lit, but please bring a flashlight for safety purposes. Space is limited to 15 people per session, so sign up now! Ruthmere Champions, Doug and Sharon Beardsley, are generously supporting the Cemetery Walk to help reduce admission pricing. Patrons & higher: free; members: \$5 per person; general public: \$10 per person; kids: \$5 per person.



After the walk, join Ruthmere and SPEAR (Stateline Paranormal Exploration And Research) for a professional paranormal investigation of Grace Lawn. Registration for this unique event is \$40 per person. Space is strictly limited to 30 people, and is filling quickly. All participants must be at least 18 years old. The investigation begins at 8:00pm with a tutorial on proper use of the equipment and techniques, and is expected to last until approximately midnight. Ghosts do not perform on command! Please keep in mind this event is for entertainment purposes only, and results are not guaranteed. All proceeds from this investigation benefit Ruthmere Museum Campus. SPEAR is a non-profit organization and does not charge for its services.

Contact vjohnston@ruthmere.org or call 574-264-0330, ext. 116, for more information on the Historic Cemetery Tour. For more information regarding the Ghost Hunt, call 574-264-0330, ext. 107, or mdoddington@ruthmere.org.

Do You Love to Play Catan?



Sign up NOW to play a multi-date CATAN tournament in unique settings such as the Havilah Beardsley House and Ruthmere's Game Room this winter. Catan is the board game about trading, building and settling in a race to be the most successful entrepreneur-perfect for Elkhart and Ruthmere!

Call 574-264-0330 ext. 105 or email bfirstenberger@ruthmere.org to receive announcements.

ONE MORE NIGHT TO REMEMBER

BY TERI STOUT, RUTHMERE VICE PRESIDENT & ONE NIGHT EVENT CHAIR

ONE NIGHT AT RUTHMERE was held on September 22, 2018, a beautiful, sunny yet crisp, Fall evening. Guests arrived through the classic iron gates, under the porte-cochère, to valet service. They immediately stepped into the courtyard garden where champagne, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served.

Betsey Long serenaded guests on the veranda during the social hour. A sense of anticipation was in the air as everyone was welcomed to dinner by the planning committee including Nicole Cripe, Janet Evanega, Patty Brotherson, Jonathan Tuff, Karen Cittadine, Connie Fulmer, Gail Martin and Teri Stout. Teri and Nicole thanked everyone for attending and invited all into Ruthmere for dinner.

Guests had their photo taken as they walked across the piazza entering the front door. They were ushered to their respective tables in the dining room, library, drawing room and game room. Every room was beautifully appointed with floral arrangements of white dahlias with green floral accents. The tables were elegantly set with gold, cream and black china and crystal.

Kurt Janowski and his team from Navarre Hospitality served a peak of the season tomato and fresh Buratta salad followed by an intermezzo of lemon sorbet and fresh mint. The piece de résistance was the Chateaubriand de Boeuf hand-carved by Kurt. It was extraordinary!!

During dinner, Ruthmere Director Bill Firstenberger visited with guests in each room and expressed his desire for everyone to “fall in love” with Ruthmere. He encouraged guests to explore the beautiful Beaux Arts home to experience the “Gilded Age” of Elkhart.

The evening concluded under “The Big Top” on the front lawn. The Bergamot, a New York based, internationally known duo, delighted guests with a mix of upbeat contemporary dance to classic rock covers with an indie twist. They struck the right chord with a packed dance floor that lingered well into the night.

ONE NIGHT AT RUTHMERE was unforgettable! It was worthy of Elizabeth and Albert Beardsley’s original hopes and dreams for Elkhart. Thanks to our One Night underwriters and attendees, their vision lives on today.

2018 One Night at Ruthmere Underwriters

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Cittadine
Ms. Connie Fulmer
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Kem Krest
NIBCO

ONE MORE NIGHT TO REMEMBER



SCHOOL FIELD TRIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

By JENNIFER JOHNS, CURATOR

Over the past few years, Ruthmere has received sponsorships to offer students who live within Elkhart County free admission to tour our sites. During the 2017-2018 school year, over 1,150 students came to tour both houses using this support.

Through a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, and matching support from Junior Achievement of Elkhart County/Lemonade Day, George and Kathy Freese and Tom and Dottie Arnold, Ruthmere is pleased to offer field trip assistance for the 2018-2019 school year. Funding supports the first 2,000 students 3rd - 5th grades residing in Elkhart County and ANY COUNTY IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT to Elkhart County in Indiana or Michigan. The program pays for the tour experience for students, accompanying teachers and chaperones. Transportation stipends are also allocated per group size to help offset busing costs.



All Elkhart County school tours for 3rd-5th grades (public, private and registered home schools) include a student membership valued at \$25 per year, that goes to every participating student. These student memberships are valid from the day of the student's field trip until their high school graduation. For our younger school aged students we offer the "My First Museum Visit" tour program for K - 1st Graders. Our goal is to introduce younger children to the museum experience. Students will learn the history of Elkhart through this fun interactive program.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

By VICTORIA JOHNSTON, OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. They bring the museum to life for visitors each year. Tour guides try to make learning fun for visitors of all ages! They help others discover local history and heritage during the tours of both the Havilah Beardsley House and Ruthmere Museum. Outside volunteers assist our Campus Coordinator plant flowers in the gardens and tend the Ruthmere grounds.

Email vjohnston@ruthmere.org or call 574-264-0330 ext. 116 for an application to become a volunteer.



EOQ - END OF QUARTER COCKTAILS

January 10 – Cream Drinks and Hangover Cures

Join us at Creek House Center from 5-7pm for a timely after-Holidays discussion of popular Cream Drinks and Hangover Cures. A variety of Winter cream cocktail favorites and select wines will be served.

March 21 – Russian Conspiracy – Vodkas Revisited

You think all vodka taste the same? Wrong! We will disprove this misconception and others surrounding Russian vodkas from 5-7pm at the Havilah Beardsley House.



FALL CONCERTS DAZZLE AND DELIGHT!

By MARK DODDINGTON, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

As autumn leaves descend upon Elkhart, Ruthmere is once again proud to present our annual Fall Concert Series. Another spectacular array of events awaits us, enhanced this year by the addition of a new feature. The winner of the First Annual Robert B. Beardsley Piano Prize Competition joins us for the opening night, Thursday, October 11, where Robert will present the award in person.

The Norell Piano Duo, Luke & Mary Rose Norell, make a return appearance for our leadoff concert. Utilizing both the 1955 Steinway and the 1938 Baldwin, both on permanent display in Ruthmere's Game Room, the Norells bring an electrifying dynamic to the long tradition of music at Ruthmere. Opening for the Norells on October 11 is Nick Susi, a St. Louis native currently residing in Duluth, Minnesota, and Grand Prize winner in the 2018 Beardsley Piano Prize Competition.

Ruthmere is proud to welcome back the Euclid Quartet on Thursday, October 25. Violinists Jameson Cooper and Brendan Shea, violist Luis Enrique Vargas, and cellist Jacqueline Choi bring two decades of cooperative harmony to the Game Room, adding a unique twist to the traditionally piano-focused Fall Concert Series. The Euclid Quartet, formed in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1998 is currently based in South Bend.

November sees the return of Jeff Barnhart, another Ruthmere Fall Concert Series alumnus. Together with his wife, Anne, they appear as Ivory & Gold, named for the eclectic combination of ingredients that make up their musical hardware. Jeff is a noted tickler of the ivories, while Anne rocks a genuine gold flute. Both provide vocals, as well. With a repertoire ranging from gospel to ragtime, Ivory & Gold add a bolt of lightning to our fall lineup on Thursday, November 8.

In keeping with a time-honored tradition, Nicholas Roth will conclude this year's series with a performance on Friday, November 23, the day after Thanksgiving. Roth, recipient of the Beardsley Piano Prize in 2017, always brings a splash of timeless grace and elegance to our series. As a youth, Roth used to practice piano in the Ruthmere Game Room, so this venue remains a homecoming for him each year and we look forward to welcoming him for many years to come.

Pricing for the Fall Concert Series is \$40.00 per non-member per concert, \$25.00 per member per concert. Season passes are also available to members only for \$100.00. All non-member ticket purchases come with a free ten-day trial membership to Ruthmere. For further information, or to reserve your seats, please contact Ruthmere at (574) 264-0330, or visit www.Ruthmere.org for complete details.

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THE NORELLS



NICHOLAS ROTH



***EUCLID
QUARTET***



IVORY & GOLD

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Ruthmere

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“AT HOME WITH THE BEARDSLEYS”

By JENNIFER JOHNS, CURATOR & JOY OLSEN, COLLECTIONS MANAGER

“At Home with the Beardsleys,” November 24-December 30, 2018, will take you back to a time when the Beardsleys lived in the lavish decor of the Victorian and Edwardian eras. With generous support from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, we are pleased to announce reduced admission pricing during our Holiday Tour Season. Tours at each house are \$2 per person (age 5 and under are free).

The 1848 Havilah Beardsley House will focus on the roots of English Christmas traditions that began during the reign of Queen Victoria. Ornamental garlands and the anticipation of Father Christmas take center stage.

Ruthmere was completed in 1910, placing it in the Edwardian period of decorative style and fashion. Boasting exquisite fireplace mantle displays and Christmas cheer throughout the house, your tour of Ruthmere for the Holidays will be memorable for the entire family.



Come celebrate the holiday season at our “Tea with Mrs. Claus” on Sunday, December 2nd. Hear the secrets that only the wife of the “jolly ol’ elf” would know. Make reservations early, as she will only be here one day! (She will need to get back to help the old guy.) Come in your most festive attire and bring your lists, too! Adults \$25, students \$10, members \$20. Reservations are required with advance purchase online or call 574-264-0330 ext. 104. Ages 4 and up.