

The Ruthmere Record

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

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

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RENAISSANCE AT RUTHMERE!

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over time, organizations go through stages similar to a life cycle. At birth everything is new and a little scary—we've never done anything like this before. As we progress through childhood and adolescence we learn from our experiences and start to enjoy the feeling of success as we continue to grow and make a bigger impact on our world. At adulthood we hit our stride with productivity and are viewed by our community as a valued asset.



Volunteers Planting the Ruthmere Quilt Garden

However, as we become mature adults, we may encounter a fork in the road, and this is where organizations are different from living things. Plants and animals don't get to choose their final step, but organizations DO have a choice—they can choose to become new again, and essentially live forever if they make the right choices; or if they fail to adapt to changes in the environment, they start to stagnate and become less relevant to those they serve. To survive and thrive they must review their mission, renew their purpose and become "reborn" to start the cycle all over again. That is what has recently happened with Ruthmere.

Ruthmere began as a germ of an idea between our Founding Director, Robert Beardsley and his father Walter Beardsley in 1965 (read about it on page 2 of this issue). Ruthmere was established to preserve a piece of Elkhart's history and provide a place for history, art and architecture to educate future generations. In the last 50 years, Ruthmere has experienced all the trials and successes of a full life well-lived; but without completely realizing it, sometime in the last decade Ruthmere quietly entered its second life cycle.

The focus of this new Ruthmere is community. Ruthmere, the Jewel of Indiana, belongs to our entire community. This fact is represented in the makeup of our Board of Directors, our growing membership, and most importantly our volunteers. Volunteers serve a vital function at Ruthmere Campus, and we thrive with our new community focus in direct proportion to the support of volunteers. Volunteers are both a treasured resource and an accurate barometer of a community's support. Whether it's helping to keep our gardens blooming, setting up for special events, or sharing art and history with tourists and students, volunteers are the key to Ruthmere's new life being a vibrant one.

HOW RUTHMERE BECAME A HOUSE MUSEUM

By ROBERT B. BEARDSLEY, FOUNDING DIRECTOR



It started with a shared vision.

I had been working for my father, Walter, as his Administrative Assistant at Miles Laboratories since 1965. We often had excellent dinners together at his house at 2233 Greenleaf Boulevard after work, prepared by our friend and cook, Edith Palmer.

During the pre-prandial hour in our book-lined library, and often after, our cozy chats involved family history and gossip of the long ago. Reminiscences of Dad's early years in Elkhart were often the focus. About that time, he was sixty-three and I was maybe thirty-five.

Dad grew up at 226 E. Beardsley Avenue, at the intersection with Grove Street, in a yellow-brick pile of large rooms on three floors and a full basement, fronted by a two-story portico of giant, fluted Corinthian columns. The house was known simply as "226." An enormous, matching barn stood behind it. Built in 1905, when automobiles were a novelty, the barn had three horse stalls and a haymow above. The architect added a fifteen-foot, steel, round turntable for cars to the design "just in case." Actually, to my knowledge, no horse ever set hoof in that cavernous structure. Just Packards, and later Cadillacs.

Our chats on those cozy evenings ranged over many family stories and his youthful memories of growing up in Elkhart. His father, Andrew Hubble Beardsley, was one of nine children, so there were relatives everywhere still in town. His uncle, Albert Raper "A.R." Beardsley, in fact, lived in a house across Grove Street—yellow brick, too—called Ruthmere. Ruthmere had two sets of iron gates, perimeter walls, and a greenhouse, too. French! Back then, anything "French" to most Midwesterners was "fancy," and therefore suspiciously foreign.

One evening, we were talking about family stories from Ruthmere. One concerned A.R.'s 1918 Cadillac limousine. A.R. never allowed his chauffeur to drive over thirty-five miles per hour. When his estate tried to sell the Caddie in 1924, they couldn't get it to go over fifty, even downhill! One story led to another, and soon we were talking about the possibility of our family foundation offering to buy the property.

From 1945 to 1969, the Deputy family—Sherrill and Helen—lived in the mansion, having bought it after Arthur Lehman Beardsley, A.R.'s nephew, died in 1944. They bravely kept the mansion together while raising six very lively boys, one of whom, Bob Deputy, has been a vital member of our Board of Directors for many years.

Back in the 1960s, the Deputys were doing their best to return Ruthmere to its glory days. There were many challenges, thanks to time and weather. The perimeter walls were crumbling. The big iron gates, with their supporting pier columns, were sagging. And a tree had fallen through the glass-domed roof of the greenhouse.

It was well known in town that the Deputys, particularly father "Dep," as Sherrill was called, were keenly interested in historic preservation and wanted Ruthmere to be saved. I thought we might be able to help. I had restored and "saved" six historic buildings in Boston in recent years. Our foundation could come up with the purchase price if he was willing to sell and work with us to achieve our common goal: to revive Ruthmere to its salad days, and make it a house museum for all to enjoy. Walter quickly approved my idea.

If ever there was a willing buyer and a willing seller, it was the Beardsleys and the Deputys, respectively. When I first met Dep, we liked each other immediately. Yes, he was interested. There was no haggling. He named a reasonable price and within minutes, we agreed. That was in the early months of 1969. Almost immediately, even before the closing, we started work on the gates and perimeter walls while the Deputy family continued living there. I wasted no time in starting on a project that took four years to complete.

HOW RUTHMERE BECAME A HOUSE MUSEUM (CONT'D)

By ROBERT B. BEARDSLEY, FOUNDING DIRECTOR

To our joy, Helen Deputy had carefully saved samples of every wall fabric used in Arthur and Stella Beardsley's 1924 redecoration—a treasure trove to a restorationist, to be sure. Ed Bitter, head of Scalandre Fabrics of New York, a cheery and likable fellow who had recently worked with Jacqueline Kennedy in her 1960-62 redecoration of the White House, agreed to reproduce what we needed.

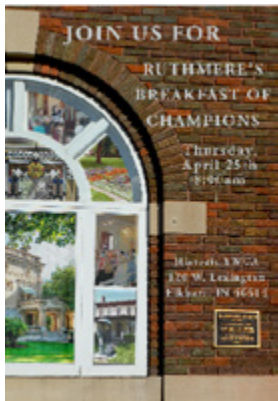
Ruthmere, an Elkhart and regional landmark, opened on September 8, 1973, my fortieth birthday. Governor Dr. Otis R. Bowen gave the opening address, and we served Mum's "Cordon Rouge" champagne. That evening, like Ruthmere ever since, was a roaring success. Today, more than seven-thousand people tour Ruthmere each year and twenty- times that number are engaged in a myriad of outreach programs and traveling exhibits. Wonderful concerts and a host of public events across the calendar certainly justify the mansion's nickname, "The Jewel of Indiana."



Helen and Sherrill Deputy

2019 BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS: INSPIRED BY RUTHMERE

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In 2018 the Ruthmere Board of Directors launched the giving campaign "Ruthmere Champions" with the bold goal of raising \$5 million of public support in five years. The first Breakfast of Champions was hosted at the historic YWCA by Ruthmere Board member Connie Fulmer and focused on the impact that Ruthmere makes on our community through our student field trips.

We will again host the Breakfast of Champions event at the YWCA in 2019. This year's program on April 25 will focus on the theme "Inspired by Ruthmere," and highlight the lives of three leaders whose Ruthmere experience changed their lives forever.

There is no ticket charge to attend this educational fund raising event. To save your seat at the 2019 Ruthmere's Breakfast of Champions, please contact Executive Director Bill Firstenberger at 574-264-0330 ext. 105 or bfirstenberger@ruthmere.org.

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Tome & Dottie Arnold
Doug & Sharon Beardsley
Robert B. Beardsley
Jack & Karen Cittadine
Arthur J. Decio
Dorinda Miles Smith
Bud & Teri Stout
Bob & Mary Pat Deputy

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Karen Nicholson
Terry Trimmer

Become A Ruthmere Champion!

INTRODUCING NEW STAFF AT RUTHMERE

By JENNIFER JOHNS, CURATOR

Andrea Barbour is our new Outreach Curator. Dree is a Mishawaka native and has a Bachelor's degree in English (concentrating in creative writing) and History (concentrating in American/British 19th Century) from Indiana University Bloomington. She is currently working on her Master's degree in Museum Studies at Johns Hopkins University. While in college, she worked for the Indiana University archives and completed an internship with the Monroe County History Center working with textiles. Dree also visited a handful of cities and museums across England for a course study on Charles Dickens. Her experiences have led her back to Ruthmere time and time again, first as a Museum Assistant, and now in her new role, as Outreach Curator; it just goes to show how much she loves Ruthmere and its rich history!

Paige Erwin is the Exhibit and Facilities Coordinator. An Elkhart native, she received her Bachelor's of Science in Public History with a minor in Museum Studies from Central Michigan University. Paige has been actively pursuing museum work for six years, spending time volunteering and interning at the Elkhart County Historical Museum throughout her time in school. Among other duties Paige will be responsible for coordinating our popular traveling exhibits. If you know of a good venue for this outreach program, do not hesitate to give Paige a call.

Lois Tomaszewski, the former managing editor of the Elkhart Truth, is a journalism professional and fine art photographer, now semi-retired and joining the Ruthmere team as a support staff member. She has a Bachelor Degree from Calumet College of St. Joseph in organization management, a Bachelor Degree from Bethel College in General Studies and will complete a Master of Communications Degree this spring from Purdue University. History has always been one of Lois' passions, and she frequently seeks out historic sites and hometown museums. She considers the opportunity of being part of the team - sharing and preserving the Ruthmere story - a privilege, and she is excited to begin.



*Lois Tomaszewski
Ruthmere Staff*

*Andrea Barbour
Outreach Curator*

*Paige Erwin
Exhibits and Facilities
Coordinator*

COFFEE ANYONE?

By MARK DODDINGTON, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Summer will be here sooner than you know. And with summer comes Coffee on the Piazza at Ruthmere! Our long-standing tradition is back, brought to you this year by The Family of Phyllis Myers: Tom and Karen. Free coffee, live music, yoga classes, and board games are all there for your enjoyment and participation! Once again we will be offering Rise N' Roll doughnuts for a small donation. Join us for this free event every Saturday from June 1 – August 31, 10am until noon.

On June 1, we welcome the lively pop/rock stylings of Mel Williams. The Ember Jar make a return appearance on June 8 with their unique acoustic pop approach. Acoustic rock duo CheckMark Sallie joins us on June 29. Local legends Paul Decker and Craig Ridout will be here on July 13. Ivory West brings her smooth folk/pop flair on July 20. Lighting Matches, soon to release their first album, will be here on July 27. Vocalist and guitarist Doug Harsch appears August 3. CarMa, an exciting pop/rock duo, is here August 17. Visit the Coffee on the Piazza web page for regular updates and links to our artists.

If you're interested in performing at Coffee on the Piazza in the future, please contact Mark Doddington at (574) 264-0330 ext. 107, or mdoddington@ruthmere.org.

FALL IN LOVE WITH CLASSICAL MUSIC

By MARK DODDINGTON, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR



The lineup is set for Ruthmere Museum's 2019 Fall Concert Series! Something will be different this year, as we open the season with a full-length performance by the winner of the Second Annual Robert Buchanan Beardsley Piano Prize Competition. The competition itself is Saturday, September 28, at noon when the public are invited to attend for only \$5 per person! The winner will perform their full concert on Thursday, October 10 to usher in the Fall season. We are proud to welcome the Goshen Faculty Trio on Thursday, October 24. Matthew Graybil will be here on Thursday, November 7. As per tradition, we will close the season with Nicholas Roth on Friday, November 29. Tickets are available for purchase on our website. Reserve your seats now. For further details, please contact Ruthmere at (574) 264-0330 or visit www.ruthmere.org.

SUPPORT RUTHMERE AT RUTHY'S

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For the past two years, Ruthmere has held an annual garage sale at Creek House. Supporters started asking if they could donate worthy items to the cause for Ruthmere to re-sell at this event. A lightbulb came on, and late in 2018, Ruthy's was born! Ruthy's is a continuous garage sale booth at the popular Hart City Supercenter on SR 19. Proceeds from the sale of items at Ruthy's financially support our mission, so stop by to see the treasures and help us get the word out. If you have any item (not just antiques) valued at \$50 or more, and would like to donate for resale at Ruthy's, call Jennifer Johns at 574-264-0330 ext. 104.



SEASONAL HIGH TEAS AT RUTHMERE

By JOY OLSEN, COLLECTIONS MANAGER

The popular Mother and Me Tea, one of the three seasonal formal teas offered to the public, returns to Ruthmere on April 28. This event is a unique experience, a throwback to the etiquette and social interaction in Elizabeth Beardsley's time. One hundred years ago, having tea as a social get together was something very popular. Elizabeth gathered with her friends whenever she could to foster friendship and to socialize.

People love to touch the past, and attending a proper tea does that very well. It is a time to put on fine clothing, share memories and teach manners to young girls and grandchildren. Boys and gentlemen can attend as well and benefit from the lessons shared in the teatime tradition. Proper table manners and how to behave in public (such as pulling out a chair for a lady or the proper sequence in which to use the tableware) can be taught at teatime.



"TEA FOR TUESDAYS" (THIS FALL)

By JOY OLSEN, COLLECTIONS MANAGER

The experience of having tea at Ruthmere, just as Elizabeth Beardsley likely did over 100 years ago, is a rare privilege. Offered in September and October, this experience will occur on a weekly basis.

Tea for Tuesdays (served at 2pm of course!), will be a nice time to gather with friends and slow down your day. This type of tea is considered an Afternoon, or Crème Tea, featuring sweets and a variety of teas for your enjoyment. Bring a friend and enjoy the gentle breezes of autumn while sipping tea in Ruthmere's garden.



2019 QUILT GARDEN ALONG THE HERITAGE TRAIL

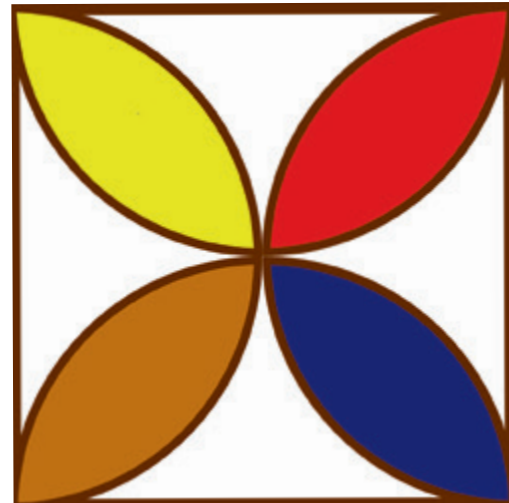
By ANDREA BARBOUR, OUTREACH CURATOR

As spring slowly but surely breaks the cold chains of this Indiana winter, we at Ruthmere begin to look forward to the beautiful gardening potential across our campus. That anticipation includes our continued participation in Elkhart County's annual Quilt Garden Along the Heritage Trail. Our 30' x 30' garden is planted with a specially selected quilt block design every year. Seventeen participants across the county have chosen breathtaking designs that you'll be able to visit free from May 30 through September 15.

This year, Ruthmere has selected a 1930's quilt block pattern called "Joseph's Coat" for our garden. This is an enduring, unique yet simple design that can be seen on several objects within Ruthmere. Additionally, it is reminiscent of a scrap quilt craze that hit America in the 30's, an era when Ruthmere was still a functional household for members of the Beardsley family.

Our pattern features four teardrop shapes that meet in the center of the block. Each teardrop will be filled with different flowers of varying colors: Yellow Taishan Marigolds, Red Cocktail Vodka Bronze Leaf Begonias, Carpet Blue Petunias, and Orange Taishan Marigolds. The background of the pattern between teardrops will be filled with Cocktail Whiskey White Bronze Leaf Begonias. Don't forget to take a trip along the Heritage Trail this summer to see all the stunning quilt designs planted across the county!

Do you love fresh air and working outdoors? Do you want to get a behind-the-scenes experience on Ruthmere grounds? If you are interested in becoming a garden volunteer at Ruthmere, contact Outreach Curator Andrea Barbour, at (574) 264-0330 ext. 102 or or abarbour@ruthmere.org.



*Ruthmere's 2019
Quilt Garden along the Heritage Trail
"Joseph's Coat"*

**KEEP THE 2019 RUTHMERE CALENDAR
DON'T MISS OUT ON ANY
OF OUR SPECIAL EVENTS!**

LOUIS COMFORT TIFFANY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS



\$10,000

Joan Beardsley Norris
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\$5,000

Douglas & Sharon Beardsley
Arthur J. Decio
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\$1,000

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE
RUTHMERE MUSEUM CAMPUS!**

**IF AN UPDATE IS
REQUIRED, PLEASE CALL
574-264-0330 EXT. 107**

CHANGES AT RUTHMERE CAMPUS

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



For the past six years Creek House Center was a worthwhile experiment for the Ruthmere Campus public offerings. We made many new connections and built new friendships. However, from the perspective of efficiency of resources, it became clear that Ruthmere needs to use this property to the maximum benefit of the organization. Creek House has now returned to its previous use as being the residence of Ruthmere's Executive Director. Bill Firstenberger and his wife Lori recently moved into Creek House.

This change in operations unfortunately necessitated the removal of the staff position of Campus Coordinator, held by Carla Riley. We are grateful to Carla for her 12-plus years of dedicated service to Ruthmere. She was a hands-on leader of Ruthmere's gardens and grounds crew, a team-building staff member (who knew by heart

everyone's birthday and personal milestones), a cordial hostess to guests of Creek House Center, and so much more. Please join us in saying "Thank You" to Carla Riley for dedicated service to Ruthmere.

Another unexpected change in staff is the recent departure of Outreach Curator, Victoria Johnston. For the past three years Victoria served in a variety of roles including everything from coordinating traveling exhibits and visitor statistics, to social media and volunteer coordination. We wish her well at her new position at ADEC.

FISCHOFF AT RUTHMERE

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Fischhoff is the nation's largest chamber music competition bringing together young musicians from across the country and around the world. The 2019 Fischhoff Competition is scheduled for May 10 - 12 on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. There is more information at www.fischhoff.org.

The Ruthmere Fischhoff soirée brings this celebration of great music to Elkhart and will feature a performance by a talented semifinalist of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. At the Ruthmere soirée on Friday, May 10 at 7pm, guests will enjoy 30-40 minutes of music from the ensemble's competition repertoire followed by a reception with light refreshments. The musicians will entertain questions from the audience regarding their selections, their experiences and the journey that brought them to Fischhoff. This concert is sponsored by 1st Source Bank and Mr. Terry Trimmer. For reservations to Fischhoff Soirée at Ruthmere, call 574-264-0330 ext. 104 or register online at www.ruthmere.org.



HIKE, SCOOP AND HOOP FOR HISTORY!

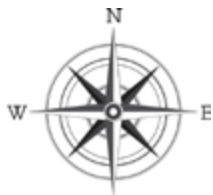
By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The planets have aligned for an unforgettable summer Sunday on July 21, 2019. Ruthmere will combine a host of family-friendly activities into one rollicking good time starting at 11am with a 0.5K History Walk. Yes, you read correctly, 0.5K! While some non-profits raise money with a 5K fun run, we felt that a "brisk walk" between Ruthmere, Havilah Beardsley House and back was more our speed. Oh, there will be "fueling stations" along the route with healthy treats such as corn dogs, cookies, high sugar sodas, energy drinks and more to keep participants from dozing off. Sign up by July 7th as individuals or as a family team to help us raise money during this fun event. Entry fee of \$25 per person includes commemorative T-shirt and bragging rights prizes. If that's not enough fun for one day, then keep it rolling with Lawn Croquet, an Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social and music by the New Image Barbershop Quartet from 1-3pm at Ruthmere Gardens. Activities feature lawn croquet tournament, electric Milburn rides, sidewalk chalk art contest, and a bona fide barbershop quartet to entertain the crowd. Sign up at Ruthmere.org or by calling 574-264-0330.

TIME TO HIT THE ROAD!

By MARK DODDINGTON, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Time TRAVELERS



What do Ruthmere, Walt Disney and Hershey bars have in common? They are all threads in the tapestry of American history.

Ruthmere is proud to announce we are now a Time Travelers organization, and a part of this eclectic assembly of history museums throughout the United States. Organized by the Missouri Historical Society, Time Travelers consists of approximately four-hundred museums and historical sites across the country, each providing a unique look into a facet of America's past.

As a Ruthmere member, you are automatically enrolled as a Time Traveler. Each location in the Time Travelers family offers special benefits available only to Time Travelers. Free admission? Maybe! A discount on souvenirs? It's possible! For our part, Ruthmere is offering free admission to Havilah Beardsley House for all Time Travelers. (Of course, you, as a Ruthmere member, already have free admission!)

After a visit to Ruthmere, take a drive to Hershey, Pennsylvania, and learn the sweet truth behind Milton Hershey's legacy at The Hershey Story: The Museum on Chocolate Avenue. Or, if the West Coast beckons, stop by the Walt Disney Family Museum at San Francisco's famed Presidio. If you love peaches, head to Georgia and stop by Atlanta's William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum. Craving lobster? Head northeast and check out the Seal Cove Auto Museum in Seal Cove, Maine. Literally hundreds of historic houses and curiosities await your discovery. To learn more, visit TimeTravelers.mohistory.org for a complete list of sites and benefits.

As you renew your membership with our new, pre-filled application form, look for the Time Travelers logo on your Ruthmere membership card. The next time you get an itch to step back in time, from West Palm Beach to Walla Walla, show your Ruthmere membership card at any participating location and reap the rewards of membership!

HIGH STYLE & HIGHBALLS

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ruthmere has teamed up with neighbors Ken and Tammie Carr at 116 E. Beardsley to throw High Style & Highballs, a progressive cocktail party for the ages! The Carrs' home is the old Floyd Best home, but interestingly, it is also the location of two earlier mansions that occupied the same building site over the past 150 years. Join us at this event on September 21 at 7pm to learn this fascinating history, and expect to be wowed with an evening of delicious fare, choice cocktails and swanky music. To be added to the Progressive Cocktail Party invitation list, please contact Executive Director Bill Firstenberger at 574-264-0330 ext. 105 or bfirstenberger@ruthmere.org.



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9. Ruthmere Patron Membership
10. Changes at Ruthmere Campus/Fischhoff at Ruthmere/.5K for
History/Ice Cream Social
11. Time To Hit The Road/Progressive Cocktail Party
12. Inside This Issue/ Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz

Ruthmere

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RUTHMERE IS SUPPORTED BY ITS MEMBERSHIP, PRIVATE DONATIONS, PLANNED GIFTS AND LEGACIES.

PLOP, PLOP, FIZZ, FIZZ

By JOY OLSEN, COLLECTIONS MANAGER

Say 'Hello' to Ruthmere's little friend, SPEEDY!

With generous permission granted by Bayer Corporation, this iconic symbol has been brought out of the archives. The relationship between Miles Lab and the Beardsley family is part of the family lore, and is entwined with the history of Elkhart. Speedy, the advertising icon associated with Alka-Seltzer, is featured on a new ceramic mug being offered in the Ruthmere campus gift shops. What a great way to show your hometown pride by giving a gift featuring a local legend, Speedy. Also available are mouse pads, drink coasters, key rings, magnets featuring Ruthmere.

You will be singing on your way out...."Oh, what a relief it is!!!!"

