

The Ruthmere Record

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

FALL/WINTER 2019/2020

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FAREWELL FALLEN CARYATID

BY WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Words are important. They carry such profound meaning, yet sometimes these meanings change or evolve while the original structure of the word remains unchanged. Farewell is an interesting word. We use it interchangeably with the interjection “good-bye” as a last word to someone significant to us who is leaving, but it doesn’t really mean that. Farewell was first used in the 14th century as a simple conjugation of the two English words “fare” and “well,” with fare in this sense meaning “do,” as in “how did you fare on the test?” Hence at its core, farewell merely means a friendly “do well,” a nice thought indeed, and certainly understandable why it quickly became a popular expression.

When we add to “farewell” the layer of context for momentous departures—a long journey, a career retirement, or a “never to see you again in this life” parting, the raw emotions that become infused with the word represent a laundry list of additional feelings and gravity. In modern culture “farewell” has now also become a noun, ie. “he said his farewells” and with it, these new meanings have transformed the original intention of the word.

In this same way, Ruthmere has transformed in meaning to our community and to the visitors whom we serve, and one piece in particular from the Ruthmere collection has also shifted in purpose with our organization, Auguste Rodin’s *The Fallen Caryatid Carrying Her Stone*. Purchased and gifted to Ruthmere by Walter Beardsley in 1978 and curated by his son, Ruthmere’s Founding Director Robert B. Beardsley, Ruthmere’s *Fallen Caryatid* has been a featured piece in numerous *Ruthmere Record* articles over the years and was a central focus at the major exhibition “Rodin Rediscovered” at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, in 1981-2. The unblemished provenance of this carved limestone masterpiece adds not only to its own beauty and history, but also to its market value and the resource that it represents to Ruthmere.

And now we come to the difficult part of this story. This artwork that Walter Beardsley purchased for \$50,000 in the 1970s has appreciated in value. How much? At this moment



The Fallen Caryatid Carrying Her Stone
by Auguste Rodin

FAREWELL FALLEN CARYATID (CONT'D)

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Crew from Terry Dowd, Incorporated, under the supervision of Sotheby's Auction House staff, gently move Ruthmere's Fallen Caryatid onto the custom crate base in preparation for transporting to New York on August 12, 2019.

in time we do not know the precise market value, but its current insurance replacement value of \$5 million is 100 times Walter's investment. Mounting costs of annual insurance coverage premiums, implementation of appropriate security, and unfulfilled core-mission objectives due to financial constraints means that the time has finally come to consider parting with Ruthmere's Fallen Caryatid (affectionately called "our girl" by this Executive Director) and allow this resource to serve the museum in a new multi-faceted way. If we sold it while the value is at a market high, the proceeds will create a Ruthmere renaissance which would transform our organization and our community forever.

What will it mean? In 2018 Ruthmere set forth the ambitious goal of achieving financial sustainability by building a \$10 million endowment, \$5 million of which is to come from new public donations through an effort called Ruthmere Champions. Since launch, Ruthmere Champions have donated over \$728,000 toward this goal. While progress has been steady, and more Champions are joining our cause every day, the sale of The Fallen Caryatid is our organization's way of saying to our donors, "we recognize the sacrifices that you are making for Ruthmere's future and we are in this drive with you." We cannot idly sit on a resource of extraordinary worth that simultaneously drains our ability to serve our primary mission when we see supporters digging deep to help us achieve the ultimate objective—to preserve Ruthmere, and to educate generations unborn about the founding values of Elkhart. Ironically, in selling The Fallen Caryatid, the weight of Ruthmere's stone will be permanently lifted for the benefit of every man, woman and child in our community. Positive finances translate into completed preservation projects, new blockbuster public exhibits, and dynamic programs that will bring unmatched quality to Elkhart's doorstep. These are reasons worthy of selling a masterpiece.

The decision was not easy and took twelve months to achieve. After an exhaustive year-long search of market options, on August 9, 2019, the Ruthmere Board of Directors unanimously approved the sale of Rodin's Fallen Caryatid through public auction at Sotheby's in New York. Our girl's journey began three days later with Sotheby's picking up the piece and transporting it under armed guard to New York City. There it underwent light conservation before being shipped to Paris for authentication by esteemed Rodin authority Jerome Le Blay of the Comité Rodin. It not only passed with flying colors, but the authentication process revealed that Ruthmere's Fallen Caryatid adds significantly to the body of scholarship related to Rodin's development of his artistic technique and use of certain materials. In short, our girl is a one-of-a-kind example that stands at the apex of Rodin's finest works!

Next, it began a world tour exhibition one last time under the ownership of Ruthmere with scheduled stops in London, Paris (again), and New York in preparation for the November public auction. This tour is one final gift that The Fallen Caryatid is giving back to Ruthmere, where many thousands will see it, marvel at its beauty, and be left with the enduring question, "what is this place Ruthmere, the Jewel of Indiana, and what else must they have if they are able to let go of this world-class masterpiece?" We urge them to come to Elkhart and find out.

So, what is it worth? In U.S. dollars we will all find out together at 7pm on November 12, 2019. But for the people of Elkhart and visitors to Ruthmere Museum, its ultimate importance will not be measured in dollars and cents. Instead, we will remember the value of Rodin's The Fallen Caryatid Carrying Her Stone in the smile of discovery on every field trip student's face, in every senior citizen's ignited nostalgic memory, in every garden bride's tears of wedded bliss, and in every concert music lover's thunderous roar of applause.

So good-bye, Fallen Caryatid, or more to the point, farewell. We hope you indeed, fare well.

A COCKTAIL PARTY FOR THE AGES!

By JANET EVANEGA, COCKTAILS ON BEARDSLEY EVENT CHAIR

A very special event took place at Ruthmere and the home of Tammie and Ken Carr on Saturday, September 21st. Cocktails on Beardsley had something for everyone. Great food, drinks, music, two beautiful locations and a festive crowd of over 100 people. To create a magical evening like Cocktails on Beardsley there are a large number of people to thank. This evening was blessed with tremendous underwriter support from the following sponsors: Karen & Jack Cittadine, Kurt Janowsky, Jonathan Tuff & Brad Priest, Dottie & Tom Arnold, Sharon & Doug Beardsley, Patty Brotherson, Becky & Kent Bontreger, Tom Corson, Janet Evanega, Kathy & George Freese, Connie Fulmer, Steve Gruber, Celia & Charlie Kirk, Julie & Ray Plagens, Teri & Bud Stout, and Willie & Ed Welter. The underwriters and ticket attendees together ensured that this one-of-a-kind fundraiser was a smashing financial success for the museum.



The Cocktails on Beardsley Committee and Ruthmere staff worked intently to attend to every detail. Months before the event, local designer, Margaret McCarthy, created a stunning invitation, the cost of which was sponsored by the Elkhart County Arts Alliance. Social media gurus Nicole Cripe and Jonathan Tuff spread the word, and several Ruthmere staff researched and assembled a display on the history of the Carr mansion property--would you believe three historic mansions have been built on this site over the past 150 years?! The stage was set at both sites with the beautiful flower arrangements created by Steve Gruber and enhanced by the Elkhart Dahlia Society. Navarre Hospitality provided their customary outstanding food and service, and Julia James' set the tone with her brilliant performances at both sites. Finally, our heartfelt thanks to Tammie and Ken Carr for opening their beautiful home and providing unparalleled hospitality at this a grand event. They truly made Cocktails on Beardsley possible.



Ken and Tammie Carr



*Cocktails on Beardsley
September 21st*



WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU - DOWNTON ABBEY TEA & MOVIE

By MARK DODDINGTON, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR



Beads and feathers, gloves and top hats adorned many gathered in the Ruthmere Game Room. Guests from age 20 to 90 enjoyed an assortment of delicious finger foods and teas at our first ever Downton Abbey Tea & Movie on Sunday, September 22. In anticipation of the newly released Downton Abbey movie, starring all the actors you came to love on your TV, Ruthmere staff concocted a tantalizing brew of a traditional English high tea, followed by a reserved showing at the local AMC theater.

Amidst glowing lights and linen tablecloths adorning the Game Room, guests experienced this unique opportunity to live a bit of the life enjoyed by the fictitious Crawley family. A spirited game of Downton trivia provoked laughs and cheers around the room as guests showed off dazzling tiaras and sparkling knowledge of the intricacies of the Crawleys, their servants, and their myriad adventures. Prizes were

awarded for the winning table, as well as for best costume, best hat, farthest traveled for the event (all the way from Florida!), youngest Downton Abbey fan, and...blush...oldest Downton Abbey fan.

Following the tea, a procession of sixty-plus made their way uptown to the movie theater to bask in the glow of all-new Downton shenanigans. The movie, highly anticipated and much hyped, proved every bit as glorious and hypnotizing as the television series that kept millions of fans worldwide riveted for five years and still demanding more. For those who have yet to see the film, you might want to skip the next sentence. Those who have seen it know that Downton enjoyed (endured?) a visit by King George V and his wife, Mary of Teck, the Queen Consort. As the Crawleys endeavored to live up to expectations upstairs, the staff learned to cope with—and delectably overcome—snobbishness below. Meanwhile, romance blooms for... That's enough. Watch it and see for yourself.



YIXIANG HOU WINS SECOND ANNUAL BEARDSLEY PIANO PRIZE

By MARK DODDINGTON, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Building on the success of last year, Ruthmere hosted the Second Annual Robert Buchanan Beardsley Piano Prize Competition on Saturday, September 28, 2019. With the help of piano enthusiasts, our competition now is listed among the most prestigious events in the United States.

Yixiang Hou took home the top prize of \$1,000. In addition to the cash prize, he will also perform the opening night of our 2019 Fall Concert Series on October 10 at 7 p.m. Hou delivered a stunning performance of Alexander Scriaban's Piano Sonata No. 9 and Charles-Valentin Alkan's "Le festin d'Estope" to take home the top prize.

A total of nineteen pianists submitted applications for the judges' consideration. In keeping with last year's standards, the level of musicianship exhibited in these videos was exceptionally high. Judges Luke and Mary Rose Norell, both faculty members at Goshen College, and Daniel Lin, on the faculty at Indiana Wesleyan University, had the herculean task of selecting the Finalists. The trio also served as judges at last year's event.

Six brilliant musicians from around the globe gathered in Ruthmere's Game Room to compete for the grand prize. Among this year's Finalists are two who entered last year's preliminary round, but did not make it to Elkhart. This year, we open our doors to Clare Longendyke and Minji Kim, who have ascended into the top tier in their second attempt. First-time entrants Hou, William Chiang, and Daniel Baer soared into the top right off the bat. For those who remembered last year's competition, Ariadne Antipa was a familiar face, making her second foray into the Beardsley Prize Finals.



Longendyke, born in Chicago, and Chiang, a native of Illinois now living in Dallas, are both students at IU Bloomington's Jacobs School of Music, while California native Antipa is pursuing her doctorate in music at the University of Cincinnati. Hou, originally from China, is currently enrolled at the New England Conservatory of Music. Kim, from Seoul, South Korea, is pursuing her doctorate in music at the University of Michigan. New York City native Baer is a graduate of Juilliard, and currently teaches at the Music Institute of Chicago. All six hold degrees and/or teaching positions from illustrious schools around the world.

The Finalists all brought their A-game to Ruthmere, performing a magnificent selection of classical music's pantheon, ranging from Ludwig van Beethoven to Clara Schumann, and spanning three centuries. Ultimately it was Hou who took home the top prize. His name will be added to the list of winners displayed beside the Beardsley Cup, kept on permanent display at Ruthmere, joining last year's winner Nicholas Susi and honorary winner Nicholas Roth.

Thanks to well-planned promotion attendance at this year's competition provided a room filled with enthusiasm worthy of these exceptional performances. Based on the first two years, the Beardsley Piano Prize may very well take its place among the vanguard of world-class piano competitions in the years to come.

Yixiang Hou
Winner 2019 Robert Buchanan
Beardsley Piano Prize Competition

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

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT & RUTHMERE FOUNDATION

By PAIGE ERWIN, EXHIBITS & FACILITIES MANAGER

Junior Achievement and the Ruthmere Foundation are partnering again this year to display the Business Legacy Hall of Fame banners dedicated to the 2019 honorees across Elkhart County. Each year, 10 businessmen and women are inducted into the hall of fame. These men and women and serve as inspiration for the community's youth.

Recipients for the Business Legacy Hall of Fame were honored at this year's Gala, with 232 in attendance. New banners for the Honorees of 2019 are currently available and ready to be displayed around the county. These include 11 different banners, ten for the business men and women honored this year and an intro banner.

Currently banners can be seen in places such as the Lerner Theater, the Elkhart Chamber of Commerce, and public libraries across the Elkhart County. These Banners will be rotating every few months.

If you are interested in having banners for display please contact Exhibits & Facilities Manager Paige Erwin by email at perwin@ruthmere.org or by phone at 574-264-0330 ext. 113



*Liliana Quintero
Thomas Adkins Recognition*

GIVE LIKE A CHAMPION!

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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FILL YOUR FALL WITH MUSIC

By MARK DODDINGTON, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

As Autumn sets in over Elkhart, music lovers will gather once again in the Game Room at Ruthmere to enjoy our Fall Concert Series. Four thrilling nights await us as we are joined by an outstanding assortment of performers.

Leading off the series is Yixiang Hou, winner of the Second Annual Robert Buchanan Beardsley Piano Prize Competition (see page 7), held on September 28. Hou will be performing on Thursday, October 10, at 7:00 p.m. He is currently enrolled at the New England Conservatory of Music.

On Thursday, October 24, Ruthmere welcomes The Sherer Trio of Goshen College, consisting of Matthew Hill on piano, Solomia Soroka on violin, and David Machavariani on cello. Soroka, a native of Ukraine, teaches applied violin, music theory, and chamber music at Goshen. Hailing from the Republic of Georgia, Adjunct Professor Machavariani teaches cello at Goshen as well as at Valparaiso University. American-born Hill is Chair of the Goshen College Music Department, and teaches applied piano, music history, piano pedagogy, and chamber music.

November 7, also a Thursday, welcomes Matthew Graybil. Born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Graybil has won numerous awards in competitions around the world. A graduate of Juilliard School of Music in Manhattan, Graybil currently lives in New York City and performs full-time in venues around the globe.

In keeping with time-honored tradition, Ruthmere welcomes longtime friend Nicholas Roth for his annual Black Friday concert, November 29. Currently residing in Des Moines, Iowa, Roth spent much of his childhood practicing piano in the Ruthmere Game Room. He holds advanced degrees in music, including a Doctorate from Michigan State. He currently holds the position of Professor of Piano at Drake University in Des Moines, where he founded the annual “Keys to Excellence Piano Series.”

Tickets for the Fall Concerts are \$25.00 for Ruthmere members, or \$40.00 for non-members. Season passes are available to Ruthmere members only at a cost of \$100.00. Tickets may be purchased online at www.ruthmere.org, or by calling (574)-264-0330. We look forward to seeing you here!



GIVING TUESDAY

By ANDREA BARBOUR, OUTREACH CURATOR

Every year, non-profits across the globe participate in the new phenomenon of Giving Tuesday – one day dedicated to fundraising by donating to the causes you believe in the most. This year, Giving Tuesday falls on December 3rd, 2019, and Ruthmere is excited to participate in this unique opportunity.

Our Field Trip Assistance program, which pays for students to come visit our two historic sites, has given thousands of children the opportunity to experience Ruthmere Campus. Developmental researchers have proven that museum visits during crucial stages of a child’s life can lead to more rewarding and successful lives overall. That’s why the students in our community are going to be our central focus of Giving Tuesday this year – we need to continue to make field trip assistance possible for underserved students who may never have the opportunity to visit us otherwise. \$10, the cost of one museum visit for one student, is the suggested donation on Giving Tuesday. From one person, it may not seem like much. But from multiple generous donors across the community, it can make an enormous difference for the future.

So be on the lookout for more information regarding Giving Tuesday on Ruthmere’s Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts on December 3rd. In the meantime, check out the hashtag #GivingTuesday on Twitter or the website givingtuesday.org for more info on how organizations are participating in this worldwide event.

RUTHMERE CASTING ITS BALLOT FOR WE VOTE 2020!

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Something BIG is happening in Elkhart County in 2020 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution—women’s right to vote. Ruthmere is proud to be a partner in the WE VOTE 2020 collaborative. Many hands are involved in this county-wide initiative, but some of the initial leaders include the Elkhart Rotary Club, Elkhart Chapter of the League of Women Voters, Wellfield Botanic Gardens, First Presbyterian Church of Elkhart, Premier Arts, Elkhart Public Library and the Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau. More organizations are welcome to join.

The WE VOTE 2020 mission is: To inspire and motivate community organizations in Elkhart County to celebrate the Centennial of the 19th Amendment. We promote the observance through collaboration, education, celebration and conversation.

A full list of programs and events is being developed under the WE VOTE 2020 promotional banner, and there is still time for new partners to jump on the bandwagon and join in via the Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wevote2020//>

For Ruthmere’s part, we have committed thus far to two major programs. First, ALL ELEVEN of Ruthmere’s monthly Gallery Talks in 2020 will focus on some aspect of women’s history or historical achievements by women. Second, Ruthmere is pleased to announce that we will be the first organization in Elkhart County to host the Indiana Historical Society traveling exhibit “Securing the Vote: Women’s Suffrage in Indiana.” This special exhibit will be on display at the Havilah Beardsley House from May 11-June 5, 2020, and will serve as the host site for a number of partner programs being coordinated with this exhibit as the backdrop. Together let’s celebrate women in 2020 as we never have before!

GRANTED!

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2019 as a staff we have taken a new approach in the area of grant writing, and the results speak for themselves. Instead of one or at most two staff members (usually yours truly) being responsible for grant funding applications, we decided to open up the grant writing process to any/all staff wanting the opportunity to try their hand at writing at grant. For their efforts participating staff are rewarded through an incentive program that provides additional compensation for 1)completing a written grant application, 2)successfully winning a grant award, and 3)managing their grant through to project completion.

So far in 2019 Ruthmere staff have applied for 11 different grants and have successfully won 9 grant awards! The granting organizations include: Community Foundation of Elkhart County, Indiana Arts Commission, Monogram Foundation, Corson Family Foundation, Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Elkhart Kiwanis Club, and Elkhart Rotary Club. Cumulative grant awards total \$42,500!

And we’re not done yet. One application currently in review is pending, and at least two more applications are in the works to be completed before the end of the year. Every Ruthmere member should be proud of the fact that we have some of the most talented and hardest working staff in the non-profit sector. Granting institutions agree!



Corson Family
Foundation, Inc



TAKING "RUTHMERE ON THE ROAD"

By Lois Tomaszewski, PROGRAM COORDINATOR



For anyone who has experienced Ruthmere, there is no denying that the house, its architecture, historic preservation and fine art collection is awe inspiring. But for many residents, especially those in retirement communities, assisted living centers and senior housing, the journey to Ruthmere can be a daunting task due to mobility and access issues.

Thanks to some creative thinking and partnerships with the community, the Ruthmere staff have devised a solution – we will take pieces of the Ruthmere collection and engaging memory-focused activities out to those who cannot be here in person to view its treasures and spark nostalgic memories. Ruthmere On The Road is that solution.

With a \$5,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County and eight \$500 donations to the Ruthmere Forever Challenge Match Fund, Ruthmere On The Road is poised to begin a pilot beta-test phase in October for six presentations at four trial locations in Elkhart County. These pilot sites will allow the program to fine-tune and prepare for expansion county-wide in October of 2020. Sites selected for the testing phase include Hubbard Hill, the brand new Hellenic Senior Living, and two sites at Miller's Merry Manor facilities in Wakarusa.

The following are preliminary themes for the program. Schedule is subject to change as needed.

- October: "The cure for what ails you": A look back at some of the medical products that originated in Elkhart and the history of Miles Lab and its connection to Ruthmere. Prompt for facility residents – what do you remember in your family's medicine closet; what are some of the home remedies used in your home.
- November: "In service to country": Patriotism in the 1900s – How the Beardsley family demonstrated patriotism and civic service. Prompt for residents: who served in the military? What was it like living in America during wartimes?
- December: "Playing games with Ruthmere": Learn about the game of pinochle and reflect on once popular games enjoyed by families.
- January: "A photographic journey through Ruthmere": A slide show and conversation about turn-of-the-century furnishings. What do you remember from your grandparents' or parents' homes?
- February: "Tea Time – Ruthmere style": Enjoy afternoon tea and reflect on manners that are no longer in vogue. What are some of the customs you wish were still practiced today?
- March: "The Beardsley Go Out and About": The advent of the automobile and some of the Beardsley experience with cars. Prompt for residents: Bring a photo or tell us about your first or favorite cars. What car was the first one you drove? What was your favorite road trip in your family car?

For the pilot period, there is no cost to the senior living centers for the program. Moving forward, a nominal fee per presentation will be charged, depending on grant funding, sponsorship, or donations restricted to this program.

To volunteer as a presenter, contact Ruthmere Program Coordinator Lois Tomaszewski at ltomaszewski@ruthmere.org.



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3. Cocktail Party for the Ages
4. We've Been Expecting You - Downton Abbey Tea & Movie
5. Yixiang Hou Wins Second Annual Beardsley Piano Prize
6. LCT/Business Members/Ruthmere Forever Supporters
7. Ruthmere Patron Membership
8. Junior Achievement & Ruthmere Foundation/Give Like A Champion!
9. Fill Your Fall With Music/Giving Tuesday
10. Ruthmere Casting Its Ballot for WE VOTE 2020!/Granted!
11. Taking Ruthmere on the Road
12. Inside This Issue/Christmas By Design

Ruthmere

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

CHRISTMAS BY DESIGN

By JOY OLSEN, COLLECTIONS MANAGER

A special year is being planned for the 2019 Ruthmere Holiday Season... "*Christmas by Design.*" Ruthmere will be showcasing 9 of Elkhart County's local artistic talents who have been invited to decorate a room at Ruthmere Mansion for the holidays. Visitors will be given the opportunity to vote for their favorite room. The designer whose room receives the most votes will be awarded \$1,000 to donate to their favorite local non-profit charity. Ruthmere's Holiday Tours will delight you and at the same time give the opportunity to benefit our community.

Holiday Tours will begin Saturday November 30 - December 29. Tours on the hour 10am - 3pm Tuesday - Saturday and Sunday 1-3pm. Ruthmere Museum Campus will be closed December 24, 25 and 26.

Matzke Florest - Ruthmere Foyer
Garber's Interior Design - Albert Beardsley's Library
820 Antiques - Elizabeth Beardsley's Bedroom
Antiques on Beardsley - Maid's Quarters
Master Automotive - Ruthmere Automobile Garage

Black Crow on Main - Ruthmere French Drawing Room
Andrew Skipper - Ruthmere Dining Room
Sweet Water Interiors - Albert Beardsley's Bedroom
Camille's of Bristol - Ruthmere Kitchen

