

# The Ruthmere Record

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

FALL/WINTER 2017/2018

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## ONE NIGHT AT RUTHMERE

By TERI STOUT, RUTHMERE BOARD VICE PRESIDENT & EVENT CHAIR

One Night at Ruthmere on September 16, 2017, was a spectacular evening introducing the art and architecture of Ruthmere to a new generation of community leaders. The last days of summer lingered as guests entered through the recently restored front gates to valet parking service and champagne. Committee members welcomed guests as they stepped out of their vehicles.

Vocalist Janet Hines Norris and pianists Mike Sherman and Greg Percifield entertained guests from the veranda. Janet mesmerized everyone with her rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

Kurt Janowsky and his team from Café Navarre Catering served cocktails and hors d'oeuvres throughout the social hour. It was the beginning of an amazing evening.

Teri Stout and Nicole Cripe, along with fellow committee members Anna Drew, Karen Cittadine and Bill Firstenberger, welcomed their guests from the veranda. Nicole said it best, "I love Elkhart and am very proud of this community. It is so important that we support places like Ruthmere because Elkhart has been very good to all of us... I would guess that there are many of you here that have never set foot in Ruthmere. I, sadly, was one of those people until I was asked to be part of this committee. It is important for our generation and peers to know what this place is and know what it's about."

Guests were called to dinner and entered through the front door, but not before they had their photos taken to record the evening for posterity. They were ushered to their tables in the dining room, library, parlor and second floor morning room. Tables were set with gold and ivory linens, glass and gold chargers and floral centerpieces arranged in silver service of the period. It was stunning.

## ANOTHER LITTLE TREASURE REVEALED

By ROBERT B. BEARDSLEY, FOUNDING DIRECTOR



Since the 15th century Aubusson carpets from a little town in central France 200 miles from Paris have been at the apex of desirability for the elegance of their design and beauty. These flat weave carpets incorporate pastel floral colors with garlands of cabbage roses and graceful border cartouches of vines and leaves. In 1786 the palace of Versailles listed more than 10,000 of them. Napoleon's penchant for elegance and beauty in his many palaces perpetuated and spread their popularity, and ever since, no rich man's house has contained less than one of them. Jackie Kennedy, for one, loved them, too.

Albert R. Beardsley, who built Ruthmere in 1908 in the Beaux Arts style, or the French chateau design, built a house where an Aubusson carpet would be perfectly at home. In 1910 A.R.'s personal income was over \$100,000, or in today's money, about \$2,500,000 (so says Google). That's rich! But Ruthmere didn't have an Aubusson then.

In 1978 The Rev. George M. Minnix and I were in London sight-seeing and looking for period accessories to replace decorative objects lost to Ruthmere over the years. One hot sunny morning in June we entered the hallowed doors of Asprey's, London's equivalent of Tiffany & Company, famous purveyors of expensive jewelry to the Royal Family. Prince Charles bought Princess Diana her celebrated sapphire engagement ring there.

For 20 minutes we wandered around bug-eyed ogling all the beautiful things money could buy before going to the second floor to the "Decorations Department," a virtual museum of beautiful furniture, porcelains, china, and "knickknacks." A rather patronizing youngish woman, Miss Anne, asked if we looking for anything special, any one thing? Well, my eye was already fixed on a carpet casually draped over one end of a Recamier sofa. "Oh, the Aubusson you mean?" "Yes, the Aubusson." I asked the price since it was not displayed on the carpet. "One moment, please," as she phoned the floor manager.

She dragged the carpet to an open space on the floor and spread it out, but no price tag. Nice, very nice. Napoleon III, 1850s. The floor manager called back: 750 pounds, firm. It looked to be about 7'x9'. Clearly it was a beauty. I agreed to meet her price immediately and whipped out my American Express Card and paid her price on the spot (about \$2000 today). Just as we finished, old Mr. Haim, manager, tottered out very agitated, to say, "No, No! I made a mistake! That's what I paid 15 years ago at auction for the piece on the retirement of one of London's best known rug dealers." But Asprey's considered a deal a deal, and that's why we have the Aubusson today. The 1978 price would have been at least double or triple, knowing Asprey's, had Mr. Haim, a very nice old gentleman, had his wits about him that morning. The next year when we returned, Miss Anne was on the ground floor dressing windows and Mr. Haim had retired.



We hope you like it.

## ONE NIGHT AT RUTHMERE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

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Seared scallops on a bed of linguini was served as the first course followed by a salad of butter lettuce with roasted baby beets and poached lobster. Lemon sorbet with a mint garnish created a palate-cleansing pause before the final course of lightly sauced grilled rack of lamb with couscous and late summer vegetables. It was a four-star extravaganza.

Guests moved from their respective tables to tour the house at their leisure and to find their way to the Game Room where our pianists duked it out on Ruthmere's famous Steinway and Baldwin pianios. Ms. Norris belted out requests from guests and the party continued. Desserts and cordials were the final touch.

One Night at Ruthmere was a historic moment and one that will certainly be recorded in Ruthmere's archives. It was worthy of Elizabeth and Albert Beardsley's vision for their home and points to a new and renewed future.

It was truly unforgettable.



# 2017 Ruthmere Photo Showcase



*Ruthmere*  
An Experience in History, Art & Architecture



## TOOTING AN OLD HORN

By MARK DODDINGTON, MEMEBERSHIP COORDINATOR

What's that big wooden cabinet in the front hall at Ruthmere? Looks like an old radio, some might say, and they wouldn't be too far off. It is, in fact, a Columbia record player, circa 1910. Unfortunately, I've heard one too many people call it a Victrola. Not so!

What's the difference, you ask? Quite simply, the Victrola is a phonograph with a large speaker horn inside a cabinet, made by the Victor (hence "Victrola") Talking Machine Company of Camden, New Jersey. While all original phonographs - or gramophones for you Anglophiles—feature a big, gaping-mawed trumpet, only the Victrola had its horn hidden away inside an acoustically sensitive cabinet. The cabinet itself had doors that could be opened or closed to provide a crude volume control.

But ours is a Columbia phonograph, manufactured by the Columbia Phonograph Company, formerly American Gramophone. Like the Victrola, and all other record players right down to the present turntables used by rappers and scratchers, it uses a tone arm attached to a needle that "reads" the grooves in a flat disc. These grooves create vibrations that are amplified and sent as electric impulses to speakers, either internal or external.

While most speakers still have a basic cone shape, they lack the dramatic flair of the old Victrola horns, especially since they tend to be enclosed in boxes, or even in the body of the phonograph itself. The principle complaint about the Victrola was the frequency with which people (or very attentive dogs) tended to bump into it. The last Victrola was produced in 1926.

The American Gramophone Company, founded in Washington, D.C., in 1881, was purchased in 1891 and turned into the Columbia Phonograph Company. It would eventually morph into the megacorporation Columbia Records, home of some of the biggest recording stars in history, including Frank Sinatra, Bob Dylan, and Mariah Carey, to name a few. So, what's in a name? Not much when you get down to it. A Columbia phonograph and a Victrola are essentially the same thing. Only a copyright keeps them eternally apart.



## PERIMETER WALL UPDATE

By CALLISTA WERT, GRANT WRITER/SITE MANAGER

This year, Ruthmere has put a focus on restoring the historic perimeter wall surrounding Ruthmere. We've made great headway with this project, and the entire south wall facing Beardsley Avenue, the most complicated portion, has been completed! Unfortunately, this section alone has taken nearly the entire \$34,000 originally budgeted for the whole project. Once work on the wall began, unforeseen major issues were revealed, such as extensive water and ice damage inside the walls and columns, requiring a new revision of the complete project cost, now placed at \$59,000.

Thanks to the support of a Community Investment Grant from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, funds from the Corson Family Foundation, proceeds from the annual Adopt-a-Pom Party, and other gifts from numerous Ruthmere members and visitors, we have been able to raise \$36,000 of the necessary funds. Work on the wall has been temporarily postponed until we are able to acquire the remaining funds. With \$23,000 left to go, we turn to our member base and community to help us raise the money that will allow us to complete this important project. If you would like to make a donation to this project, please visit our website or call 574-264-0330 ext. 105. Many thanks to all who wish to contribute and to those who already have!



**OWN THE RUTHMERE LIFESTYLE!**

Would you like to support Ruthmere by owning (sponsoring) a program/event either personally or through your business? Opportunities available for both full and partial sponsorships. Great sponsor perks!

Call Executive Director Bill Firstenberger  
574-264-0330 ext. 105



Gallery Talks  
by  
Garber's Interior  
Design

\$1,000

SOLD

Sponsor a Month of Ruthmere  
Campus Wide

The Month of May Sponsored  
by \_\_\_\_\_ (your name).

NEW LISTING

2017

Holiday Decorations  
& Tours (30 days)  
"I'll Be Home for Christmas"  
(Military Theme)

\$3,000

PENDING

2018 Beardsley  
Piano Prize

New Classical  
Piano Competition



NEW LISTING

Field Trip Assistance  
Pre-K to High School



PARTNERS WANTED

Free Family  
Sundays!

3,000+ Free Community Tours  
8 Dates

\$10,000

WHAT A DEAL!

Fan Souvenir  
Hand-Outs



\$1,000

PENDING



Elkhart Junior  
Achievement

\$10,000 & Lemonade Day!  
Elkhart Business Legacy  
Hall of Fame  
Traveling Exhibit

SOLD

## THIS MONTH AT RUTHMERE BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

How would you like every visitor, every person who comes in contact with Ruthmere that would be for an entire month to see that it was made possible by you or your business? So far in 2017, our average has been 19,000 visitor experiences per month. That would be 19,000 times your name/business would be recognized. Talk about making a difference to our community!

Does the idea of “The Month of June brought to you by...” give you a warm feeling? If so, then we need to talk. Monthly sponsorship opportunities are based on public impact factors such as track record of expected visitors and number of different public programs.

Where’s your passion? Collections development and preservation projects are strongest during January through March, youth field trips are packed during April and May, the summer months of June to September show off our blooming gardens during our busiest tour season, October and November focus on concerts and the December Holiday tour season is an annual tradition.

## THE CHORACELO: A UNIQUELY AMERICAN INSTRUMENT

By JOY OLSEN, COLLECTIONS MANAGER AND KAREN NICHOLSON, DOCENT

Over the past couple of years, we have had several conversations about the Choralcelo. We always come back to the same unanswered questions: How is it pronounced? How did Elizabeth and other purchasers find out about them? Why did the company stop making them? And what happened to all of them?

The Choralcelo (pronounced kor-AHL-sel-lo) was invented by Melvin Severly, with the help of his brother-in-law, George Sinclair, in 1888. The units were built in Boston, with studios in Boston, New York, and Chicago. The Choralcelo was presented to the public on April 27, 1909, at Symphony Hall in Boston, accompanied by a soprano and members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.



In 1918, Wilber Farrington took over the company. He arranged banquet-concerts in the Chicago area, and issued invitations to the wealthy and powerful. The instruments were expensive by today’s standards, costing between a quarter- and a half-million in today’s dollars, depending on customized features. Approximately one hundred were made. They were installed in homes, in theaters to accompany silent films, and in department stores. Hotels with installations included the Holland House and the Belmont in New York. Mount St. Mary’s Hospital in Niagara Falls, New York, was the first hospital to utilize music therapy, and the Choralcelo filled the facility with sound. World War II caused the company to close for good in 1942.

Today, only two working Choralcelos exist in the United States, one in Colorado, the other right here at Ruthmere. The Colorado installation was most remarkable. The owner had a ballroom designed and built in Boston. The entire ballroom was shipped to Colorado Springs and reassembled on-site. As far as answering the question about where Elizabeth first heard the Choralcelo and where she purchased it, it remains a mystery. We’re just grateful that she did!

## CREEK HOUSE CENTER FOR YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY PARTY

By CARLA RILEY, CAMPUS COORDINATOR

Are you looking for a venue for your holiday party? Well, look no further because historic Creek House Center offers you the perfect location. The house boasts a fully functional kitchen, and entertaining space of living room, dining room, library and 5 bedrooms that comfortably sleep 10 guest. Other house amenities include free WiFi and smart TV with cable sports package. The exterior includes over two acres of property with scenic views to Christiana Creek. Creek House Center is also a wonderful destination for Notre Dame home games. Tailgate in style! For reservations call (574) 264-0330 ext. 113.



## YOUR PLANNED LEGACY AT RUTHMERE

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

No one wants to talk about it. We don't live forever. However, legacy gifts are a wonderful way for a person's passions and intentions to live on and continue for future generations well beyond our own mortal existence. We ask you to consider the benefits to our community by making a legacy gift in your will or estate plan to a Ruthmere Endowed Fund managed by the Community Foundation of Elkhart County. Donations to these funds carry a number of advantages: 1) Your gift is SECURE and expertly managed by the CFEC—if for any reason Ruthmere Campus were to no longer be viable, you may list an alternate recipient for your legacy gift, 2) Your gift is DIRECTED specifically to the funding needs where your passion resides (Education, Art, History, Architecture, Havilah Beardsley House, Ruthmere) and 3) Your gift is LEVERAGED with a 25% match by the CFEC to dramatically increase the impact of your gift.

In 2016, Ruthmere had 107,340 quality visitor experiences through on site visits and outreach programs. Currently in 2017 we are on track to eclipse 200,000! This exceptional growth in public engagement also presents new challenges of keeping up with demand. Your investment in Elkhart's future through a planned legacy gift will mean that future will continue to shine bright.

## "I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS" HOLIDAY TOUR

By JENNIFER JOHNS, CURATOR



Ruthmere will once again be a must-see during the holiday season. We will be honoring both active duty personnel and veterans by showing our support with this year's theme "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and will highlight the Armed Services through the decades. Throughout the years, soldiers have fought for our freedom and the holidays have been the hardest time to be away from family. The house will be decorated with patriotic décor and vintage uniforms from World War I through Vietnam.

We are pleased to announce a special holiday partnership with all area military organizations in northern Indiana and southwestern Michigan, offering free admission for the entire month for active duty military personnel and veterans of the military. Please show military ID card to receive this benefit. A Special Rate of \$2 per person per site has been made possible through a grant from The Community Foundation of Elkhart County.

Special programs for the Holiday Season include Cocktails with Claus (21 and over), Sunday with Santa, Ruthmere Holiday Tea, Screening of White Christmas and Potawatomi Veterans Panel. See Ruthmere calendar insert for dates/times/ticket prices.

Holiday Tours at the Ruthmere Campus are November 25 – December 30, 2017. Tours begin on the hour Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 3pm and Sunday 1 - 3pm. The museum is closed on Mondays as well as December 24-26.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By VICTORIA JOHNSTON, OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Have you noticed the beautiful gardens around the Ruthmere Campus this year? Campus Coordinator Carla Riley oversees the visual appearance of the Ruthmere Campus grounds. Recently one of our volunteers, Becky Mayfield, has taken a keen interest in helping in this area. Thanks to Becky, who has committed both volunteer time and financial support, the Ruthmere grounds look amazing, and we have seen an increase in compliments. Becky has also graciously donated flowers to the museum, particularly in the Wedding Garden.

Beginning last year in October, Becky has worked to help Carla with gardening around the grounds. Since then, she has been an inspiration to many and a wonderful addition to Ruthmere's volunteer team. Thanks again Becky for all you have done! We could not have accomplished this much outside without you! The Ruthmere staff wanted to take this time to express our deepest gratitude for the time and energy you have put into the grounds.



## RUTHMERE EMBRACES TECHNOLOGY WITH TOUR~~ELKHART~~.ORG

By WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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There are so many wonderful places and sites to explore in Elkhart County, but we cannot have a museum for all of them... or can we? Ruthmere is proud to launch our new expansive smartphone tour app TourElkhart.org through a collaborative partnership with PocketSights. TourElkhart.org knocks down the walls of the museum and makes virtually any place of interest an engaging museum site—all without the clutter of signs and the convenience of 24/7 operation. Compatible with ALL smartphones, simply plug in the URL address “TourElkhart.org” and off you go on six different tours in the region. You can sample the tour sites as a streaming mobile web site, or if you want the ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE, download the app directly to your smartphone and prepare to be wowed! PocketSights App is available for FREE at both the App Store for iPhone and Google Play for Android devices.

Tours include: Elkhart Band Instrument Industry Tour • Beardsley Historic District Tour • Architecture of E. Hill Turnock Tour • Ruthmere Gardens and Grounds Tour • National New York Central Railroad Museum Tour • Museums of Elkhart County Tour.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS – Promote your business or organization by becoming a sponsor on TourElkhart.org. Imagine the power of being able to place a special offer for your business into the hands of visitors who on the tour near you. For just \$50 a year you can sponsor an individual tour site, or go all out and sponsor one of the six complete tours for only \$300 per year!

## KEEP THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT ALIVE!

By VICTORIA JOHNSTON, OUTREACH CURATOR

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Docent Karen Nicholson guides a tour  
in the Ruthmere Museum Garage

For four decades, Ruthmere has been a place where the public can visit to learn about local history and see how one of Elkhart’s most prominent families lived during the early 20th century. Guided tours of both Ruthmere Museum and the foundation’s most recent addition, the Havilah Beardsley House, make history and learning fun! However, we could not accomplish this without the help of volunteers. Volunteers play an essential role in the museum by interacting and engaging every visitor who walks through our door. Not only do they help to give tours, but they assist our Campus Coordinator, Carla Riley, maintain the grounds and keep our gardens looking beautiful.

This year, Ruthmere Foundation was asked to join the Acts of Service website, created by Lippert Components, which helps to actively engage employees from local businesses to volunteer for nonprofits. This wonderful opportunity connects employees to their community by having them offer

their time and energy to support local nonprofit organizations. Many companies are encouraging their employees to accrue hours of community service as a new outreach opportunity. Their support and time is greatly appreciated, especially when many nonprofits are finding it difficult to locate new volunteers. So far, Welch Packaging and Lippert Components employees have assisted our staff members with setting up for “Drive-In Friday” events. Thanks again Welch Packaging and Lippert Components!

Whether you are an employee, a business, or are looking to volunteer on your own time, please contact me at [vjohnston@ruthmere.org](mailto:vjohnston@ruthmere.org) or call 574-264-0330 ext. 116. We could use your help to keep the community spirit alive in our city! For more information on Lippert Components initiative or to find the Acts of Service website, please visit [www.ActsofService.com](http://www.ActsofService.com).

## LOUIS COMFORT TIFFANY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS

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### \$2,500

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE  
RUTHMERE FOUNDATION!**

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

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THE RUTHMERE FOUNDATION,  
INC.  
302 EAST BEARDSLEY AVENUE  
ELKHART, INDIANA 46514  
574.264.0330

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

## 2017 FALL CONCERT SERIES

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Ruthmere proudly announces the Fall Concert Series for 2017. All concerts are held in Ruthmere's historic Game Room, and followed by a Meet the Artist reception. See our Classical Music Concerts web page for program details and more information about the artists at [Ruthmere.org](http://Ruthmere.org).

October 12th - Gemeinhardt Flutists Rebecca Hovan and Matthew Allison will provide an unforgettable flute duet concert and present information on the new Gemeinhardt Teaching Artist Program. Mariah Boucher their accompanist, performs in recitals featuring singers and instrumentalists, and has been a featured soloist with orchestras performing the concerti of Mendelssohn and Ravel.

October 26th - Liana Paniyeva is an international award-winning concert pianist living in New York. She is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music and the University of Hartford. Liana has prepared a stunning concert featuring Variations on a Theme of Corelli op 42, Brahms Klavierstücke op. 76, and Beethoven Piano Sonata No. 23 in F minor.

November 9th - Jeremy Kahn was born near Chicago, and today lives with his family in Oak Park, Illinois. A jazz pianist by trade and journeyman studio professional, Jeremy will wow the Ruthmere audience with his program on November 9, "Hoosier Daddies: Jeremy Kahn plays the music of Cole Porter and Hoagy Carmichael."

November 25th - Nicholas Roth, Elkhart's favorite son will treat Ruthmere patrons with a "Russian Night" including a four-hand duet version of the Nutcracker Suite with his student Pablo Valladares. What a way to celebrate the holiday weekend! Nicholas is Professor of piano at Drake University. On this night Nicholas will perform and be recognized as the inaugural recipient of the Robert Beardsley Annual Piano Prize.