

# The Ruthmere Record

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

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

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## THE JOY OF GIVING

By ROBERT BEARDSLEY & GAIL MARTIN

The concept is simple. We all want Elkhart to be a thriving, beautiful place to live. How we achieve that goal is where things get complicated. One piece of the puzzle involves people giving back. The need for gifts is obvious when we dare to try something new to enhance the quality of life, like the Havilah Beardsley House Project.

Elkhart is blessed with fine examples of families and individuals whose generosity changes lives. They will be the first to admit that few things make them happier than knowing their resources are building a stronger community. People who give resources from their checkbook, or time from their calendar, experience the same feelings of satisfaction. Their personal contribution has made the difference.

Many of you will remember the brilliant evening in June 2009, when Ruthmere blazed with the royal Russian colors and fabulous piano performances by maestro Alexander Toradze of the IUSB Martin endowed Piano Studio. Superb Russian cuisine, live dance music (and Alice does a mean jitterbug) provided memorable entertainment. Who can forget the evening-ending performance of the children's choir who sang Russian lullabies to send our charmed guests into the dark night.

"Elkhart had not experienced such a wonderful evening," stated one visitor from Colorado.

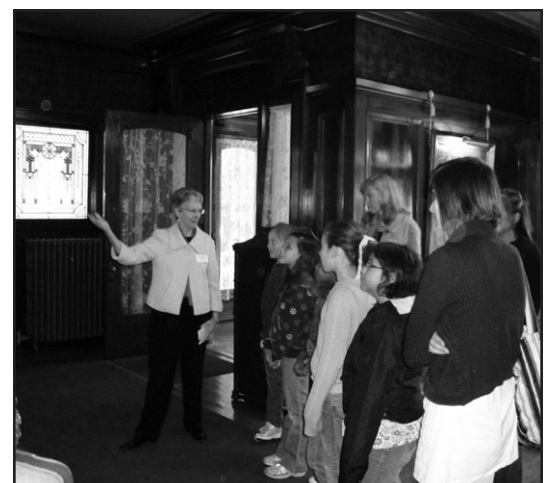
What made this evening possible? The generosity of Ruthmere board member, Alice Martin and her husband Rex. They wanted their guests to share the beauty of Ruthmere

and a night to remember. Alice and Rex Martin, our great benefactors and friends, remind us that Elkhart continues to be a great place for all of us to live.

The Martin's enthusiasm was instrumental in getting the Havilah Beardsley House Project off the ground. This project reminds us that Elkhart has fascinating historical past that we are now joining to a creative future. Our children and our grandchildren will now have a special place to enjoy the history and spirit of Elkhart. Leading the way, Alice and Rex have shown us the joy of giving.



Caption Here



Caption Here

# Ruthmere

## DISCOVER THE REWARDS OF MEMBERSHIP

Please fill out this form and mail or fax it to:  
Ruthmere Museum Membership  
302 East Beardsley Avenue  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
Telephone: (574) 264-0330  
Fax: (574) 266-0474

Individual (\$35)    Family (\$50)    Patron (\$100)  
 Bronze Patron (\$250)    Silver Patron (\$500)  
 Gold Patron (\$1,000)

Name(s) as you would like to be listed in publications \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make check payable to Ruthmere Museum

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my:

Visa    MasterCard    DiscoverCard

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Required for Credit Card) \_\_\_\_\_

This is a gift membership for:

Name(s) as you would like to be listed in publications \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Matching gift form enclosed.** Membership contributions to Ruthmere Museum may be matched by your employer. Ask if your company participates in the matching gift program.

**Memorial** in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
Memorials are available anytime at Ruthmere.

## CONFLUENCE

The Ruthmere Writers' Group meets monthly on the third Saturday afternoon of each month at 1:30pm Admission is free. Writers and those interested in writing are invited to bring a writing sample or a favorite work by another author to share in an encouraging environment. The group is facilitated by poetry Professor Emerita Darlene Mathis Eddy. See the calendar for meeting dates.



## Membership Levels

### Individual - \$35

3 issues of The Ruthmere Record, one free tour for 2, and information regarding all upcoming Ruthmere events.

### Family - \$50

3 issues of The Ruthmere Record, one complimentary family tour, and invitation to the children's summer party.

### Patron - \$100

3 issues of The Ruthmere Record, listing in newsletters, one complimentary tour for 4 plus information regarding all upcoming Ruthmere events.

### Bronze Patron - \$250

3 issues of The Ruthmere Record, listing in newsletters, one complimentary tour for 8 plus information regarding all upcoming events.

### Silver Patron - \$500

Same as Bronze Patron above plus one complimentary tour for 12.

Special membership opportunities are available at higher levels. Please contact Bill Firstenberger at (574) 264-0330

**All memberships include a  
10% discount in the Museum Shop.**

## NOTES FROM AN OAKEN AERIE...

MARILOU RITCHIE, LIBRARIAN / ARCHIVIST

September is upon us again, and to old school teachers September is a time for new beginnings. With a new director, new email accounts, new name tags, and many other innovations Ruthmere is starting over once again. As long as each new beginning brings improvement -- and it usually does -- all is well.

September also brings the annual change of the maple outside the library from boring green to flaming red; and when the sun shines on it, the library develops a rosy glow that is warm and wonderful. This is my favorite time of year, and I invite all of you to visit the library and enjoy its special ambience.

There are other reasons for visiting the library of course. You might browse around and find a book on gardening, collecting pottery or china, domestic architecture, a favorite painter or sculptor, or our antique automobiles. You might sit at our trestle table that came from Harvard University and leaf through our

## HAVILAH BEARDSLEY HOUSE ROAD SHOW

Would your club or organization enjoy a Havilah Beardsley House Project video presentation? We would love to visit your group and share the story of Elkhart's entrepreneurial past focused on the city's founder Havilah B.

Contact us to schedule your program. Phone 574-264-0330 ext.105 or email [bfirstenberger@ruthmere.org](mailto:bfirstenberger@ruthmere.org).

newest book on Louis Comfort Tiffany's unique contributions to American art. It's called Tiffany Glass: a Passion for Colour, and that is the way it's spelled in the book, published in Canada.

The catalog of the Arts Reference Library should be available through the Elkhart Public Library by the end of September. I realize we've promised this for a long time, but circumstances change and things often take longer than expected. In order to make it easier for clients to find us, we will be called Ruthmere Museum in the catalog, but we will still be the Robert B. Beardsley Arts Reference Library in the details of each book. Go to [myepl.org](http://myepl.org) to find the Elkhart Public Library; then go to advanced; under advanced, click on libraries; under libraries, scroll down to find Ruthmere Museum.

Meanwhile we welcome you to come here to browse through our real, old-fashioned card catalog any Wednesday from 10 to 3 or on Thursday from 1 to 3.



# ROBERT RECALLS. . . WINTER CROSSING

By ROBERT BEARDSLEY, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

\*In order to give Robert Beardsley a short respite from his column, we print the following excerpt from his forthcoming autobiography.

Determined to make at least one winter Atlantic crossing, I returned to New York in early January 1969 on the liner United States. Actually we had clear weather, but it was cold, windy, and quite rough. The red velvet “ropes” were up in the hallways most of the trip for unsteady passengers to grab on to when the sea was up. One doesn’t see the ropes anymore even on transatlantic runs; the company must have decided their negative psychological impact outweighed their usefulness. Well bundled up, capped and gloved, I used to march around the promenade deck midmornings during the “heat” of the day for exercise. The winds on deck were 35-40 mph, considering that we had a headwind and the United States was the fastest liner ever built. We traveled at about 32 knots, or 35 mph. The open deck was manageable if you leaned into the wind (or lay back on it going the other way) but entering the foredeck through a narrow passageway, I forgot the Venturi principle about how liquid, like air, speeds up as it goes through a narrow space. I got through the passageway; but on the forward side the wind flattened me against the companionway, and I could not move and certainly could not be heard. I finally slumped to the deck like a sack of potatoes and on my hands and knees, my scarf whipping every which way, I crawled aft to the open deck where I finally was able to stand up again.

I told the ship’s social director of my adventure at lunch (I was at her table) and she said: “You should not have been



Place saved for picture to come.

on deck today!” I had not read the ship’s bulletin that morning. Just as she said that, the giant black and gold sideboard in the middle of the dining room slid about two feet to port. “Uh, Nancy, did you see what I just saw?” Alarmed, she summoned four waiters who grabbed the monster and hooked it down to keep it from moving again on the next roll. The service staff was predominantly Filipino on that magnificent ship, but labor costs, strikes and declining passenger manifests spelled the end of the big liners who soon went out of business. The cruise industry revived ship travel, of course, and saved it, and made bigger and bigger ships. The next one to come will probably be named “Monster of the Seas.” Cunard’s “Getting There Is Half the Fun” was true. There is a great difference between travelling and cruising.

Just a few weeks ago, I came across a dozen or so color slides I took on that fast windy voyage 39 years ago. The color is perfect, like yesterday. Since one can take pictures ON a ship, but on a ship

one cannot take picture OF a ship, I got a lot of shots of the streamlined red, white, and blue funnels, the long promenade deck, and some fairly big waves. My pictures do not show any other passengers on deck. The staff captain allowed me on the bridge. From the observation posts each side I got some good pictures down the side of the ship underway at great speed. How clear, blue, and sparkling the Atlantic can be in winter, and cold. When Mr. Pickwick was learning to ice skate, he observed to Sam “Veller,” his man: “How slippery it is.” “Not an uncommon thing with ice, sir.” Cold is a not uncommon thing on the north Atlantic, especially in January. As for ice, we did see “growlers” on that passage, but so did the captain and we steered well past them.

I still have a souvenir of that crossing. One rough evening when I thought I was safely in bed, I got up to go to the bathroom. Halfway there a wave hit and propelled me the rest of the way through

*continued on next page*

## WHAT A SUMMER!

By BILL FIRSTENBERGER

*“Robert Recalls...Winter Crossing”  
continued from page 3*

the air. I fell on my hands and face but my left shin collided with the aluminum combing that separated the bath from the cabin. I got a nasty gash on my left shin. They take forever to heal. Ship's doctors are accustomed to treating seasick passengers so I was one of his more interesting patients on that four-and-a-half day crossing. I do not have my diary in front of me, but I remember that the ship's first class was no more than 20% full. Its silhouette and hull design were fabulous, and, in my thinking, the United States was one of the most beautiful ships ever built, next to the Normandie, forever the most beautiful. Grandfather “Hub” was taken off the Normandie by pilot boat as it entered New York Harbor late October, 1936, after a heart attack and taken to Doctors' Hospital. The family flew down from Chicago to New York on a DC-3, just then entering service, and was with him when he died.

The United States was withdrawn from service in November, 1969, not quite seventeen years after her maiden voyage, and retired to mothballs in Newport News, Virginia. The ship still exists, sort of, in Philadelphia, a rotting monument to the fastest ship ever to cross the Atlantic.

I traveled by myself on the United States that winter crossing, perhaps the most dramatic of my transatlantic voyages because of the sea conditions.



It's hard to imagine a summer filled with more excitement and fortuitous events than the happenings of the past four months. As many already know my personal Elkhart roots along the north bank of the St. Joseph River run deep, but nothing could prepare me for the discovery that my very own grandfather, Arthur Kistner, was at one time owner and resident of the Havilah Beardsley House! This trivial nugget had fallen between the cracks of my family history, but the home's previous owner Darlene Adkins gladly helped me retrace my roots by sharing her knowledge of house history such as Kistner's installation of the Austrian crystal chandelier that hangs in the family sitting room.

Far beyond my personal connections, much attention was given to the Havilah Beardsley House this summer. A new main entrance on the north side as well as an attractive outdoor plaza was installed in preparation for a kick-off preview event held on August 19th. Staff gave it their all getting the house ready, including scraping and painting the north side exterior--20 feet high no less! We were delighted that nearly 100 attended to honor the Founders of this historic project--Robert B. Beardsley, Joan Beardsley Norris, Rex and Alice Martin, Robert and Mary Pat Deputy, and Arthur and the late Pat Decio. A highlight of the night was the presentation by Edward Beardsley (representing his brother Jeff Beardsley) of the gift of an original 1838 land patent documenting Havilah Beardsley's purchase of land in Elkhart County.

To further illustrate the Havilah Beardsley House Project, Ruthmere had

Emmy award-winning Jeremy Pinckert of Explore Media produce a video which gives a glimpse into the vision of this project. What better storyteller to communicate the entrepreneurial story of Havilah Beardsley than a modern-day Elkhart entrepreneur? This high definition video is viewable on Ruthmere's home page at [www.ruthmere.org](http://www.ruthmere.org). Watch it and be inspired.(see page \_\_)

Public programs took center stage with the annual Children's Summer Garden Party, and our monthly Free Family Sundays. At the Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 1, the single-day attendance record was broken as 486 guests toured Ruthmere. In late August, the i-Spy Elkhart Free Cell Phone Tour was launched to the public, and in the first six weeks, over 150 new visitors from 8 different states called this innovative tour where visitors experience audio messages, still pictures, video clips, receive text message coupons, and can even leave their live suggestions and comments. Look for great expansions of the i-Spy Elkhart Tour in the near future.(see page\_\_\_\_)

What's next? Here's a hint--with the re-opening of the 2011 Ruthmere season on April 1, 2011 next year's visitors will be treated to an expanded tour of Ruthmere that tells the whole story. Plan your visit now.

The goal in all of this activity remains clear--transform the Ruthmere campus into an engaging experience in history, art and architecture, which in turn helps to create a better Elkhart for us all.





# LOUIS COMFORT TIFFANY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS

## \$5,000 PLATINUM

Arthur J. & Patricia Decio  
Joan Beardsley Norris

## \$2,500 ROSE GOLD PATRON

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Tom & Peggy Deputy  
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Peggy Weed

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Peter Deputy  
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George & Kathy Freese

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Keith & Nancy Holmes  
Laurel Spencer Forsythe  
David & Janet Weed  
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& Alan O'Day

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Mary Jane Blanken  
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Bill & Lori Firstenberger  
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Mr. & Mrs. Harold Atkins  
William & Jan Atwood  
Rufus & Marilyn Beardsley  
John & Pat Bickart  
Beryl & Barbara Boss  
Dennis Buettner  
James & Anke Chandler  
Richard & Kathy Collins  
Bettie Dippo  
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Jeff & Julie Gaff  
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Thomas & Barbara Kurth  
James & Susan Lingar  
Claire Luther  
Margaret McMillan  
Tina Mellott  
Thomas & Susan Mills  
Patricia Morison  
Georgene Nelson  
Peg Owens- Donated extra \$25 in  
memory of Mary Ann Graves  
Raymond Piper  
Karleen Richter  
Donald Rockwell  
Charlene Rule  
Mary Ellen Shamory  
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Laura & Randy Horst  
William Inman  
Dean & Judy Kelly  
Susie Lehman  
James & Ann McNamee  
Edward & Florence Monger  
Clifford & Jean Murray  
Marilou Ritchie  
Russell & Anita Miller Ritchie  
Louis & Deidra Sfredo  
Jon & Carol Smoker

## \$35 INDIVIDUAL

John Abell  
William & Jan Atwood  
Martha Ball  
Stuart & Trudy Basquin

## JAMES TURNOCK VISITS RUTHMERE

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A surprise visitor to Ruthmere in August was James Turnock, the great-grandson of Enoch Hill Turnock, the architect who designed Ruthmere as well as many other Elkhart houses and buildings. Touring the United States, James and his wife Alison stopped in Elkhart to visit the place where his great-grandfather had lived and contributed so richly to the domestic architecture and to see some of the houses he had designed. Although he was pleased and proud to see the accomplishments of his ancestor, Turnock confided that, while his father and grandfather had both borne the family name Enoch, his parents had spared him that burden.

Coincidentally Robert Beardsley, who was Albert Beardsley's great-grandnephew and was instrumental in restoring the house his great-granduncle had built, was in town and arrived at Ruthmere just in time to meet James, the great-grandson of the architect. Both men enjoyed the meeting and swapped family stories for about an hour.



*Robert Beardsley with special visitor James Turnock*

## THE MAN WITH THE BROKEN NOSE

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Ruthmere welcomes the return of the Man with the Broken Nose on loan to us from Robert B. Beardsley, president of our Board of Directors

Considered the first major work by Auguste Rodin (1840-1917), this sculpture was done in 1864. At that time an old man known as Bibi often swept the studios of artists. His curly beard and broken nose reminded Rodin of the slaves in Greek statuary; and he asked Bibi to pose for a head which was completed in a cold workshop. Unfortunately frost caused the clay to crack, and the back of the head fell off. Rodin decided not to repair it but to present it to the Paris Salon of 1864 as The Mask of the Man with the Broken Nose. It was the first of many works presented to the Salon that were rejected.

Several years later the sculptor Jules Deshois noticed the head in Rodin's studio and brought it to the attention of other sculptors who admired it and thought it was an antique. Thus began the respect for Rodin that was so richly deserved.

Ruthmere is proud to be able to display this treasure again.



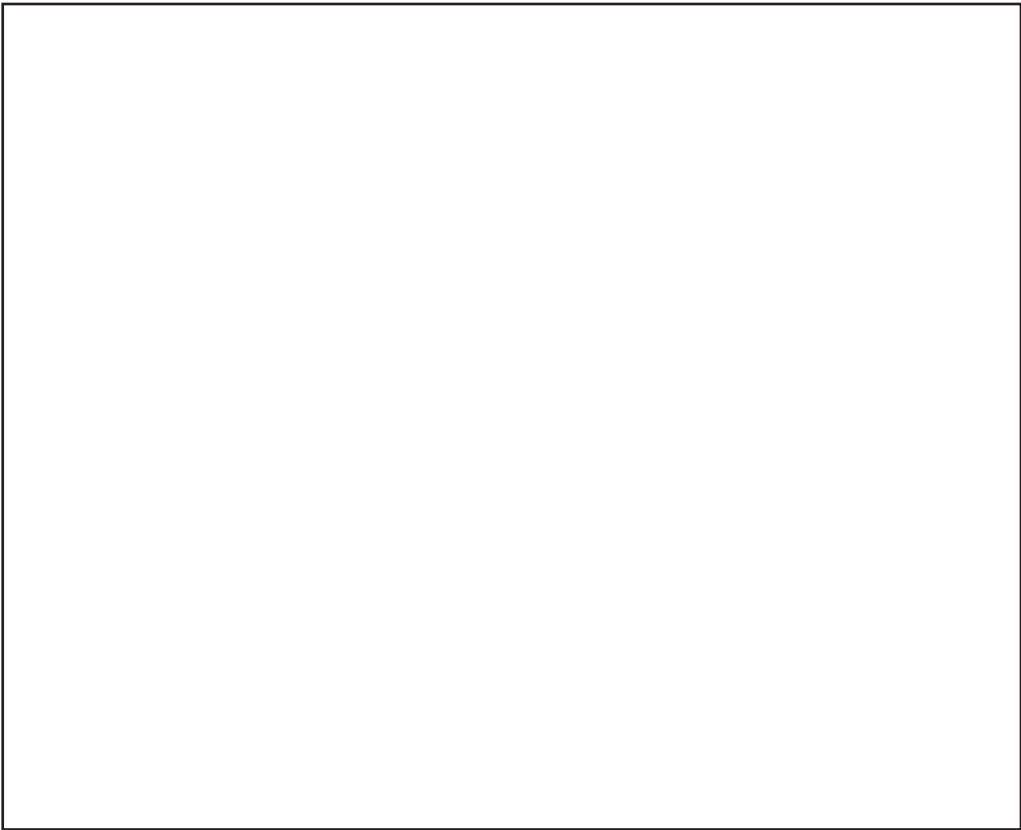
## I-SPY ELKHART CELL PHONE TOUR

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Ruthmere is pleased to launch a new program initiative, the i-Spy Elkhart Cell Phone Tour. The first 'leg' of the tour, the Beardsley Historic District contains nine tour stops including Ruthmere, the Havilah Beardsley House, the Beardsley Monument and more. Visitors access the tour simply by dialing 574-584-7007 and following the prompts to learn about history 'where it happened.' The tour is offered free of charge, however, a caller's normal usage plan applies. The smarter the phone, then the more sophisticated the message. Internet capable phones can receive photos, maps, and video clips. Take the i-Spy tour and receive a text message coupon worth \$2 off your next tour of Ruthmere. Coming soon – the i-Spy E. Hill Turnock architectural tour!

HIDDEN TREASURES OF  
RUTHMERE

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*The Rev. George Minnix discusses a piece from Ruthmere's extensive teapot collection at the first Secret Treasures program.*



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*"Winter Projects At Ruthmere" continued from page 6*



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Elkhart, IN  
Permit No. 151

## **JUNE**

- 6: Free Family Sunday
- 19: Confluence Writers Group
- 2, 12, 19, 26: Coffee On The Piazza

## **JULY**

- 4: Free Family Sunday
- 17: Children's Garden Party
- 17: Confluence Writers Group
- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Coffee On The Piazza

## **AUGUST**

- 1: Free Family Sunday & Ice Cream Social
- 14: Confluence Writers Group
- 7, 14, 21, 28: Coffee On The Piazza

## **SEPTEMBER**

- 5: Free Family Sunday
- 19: Confluence Writers Group
- 4, 11, 18, 25: Coffee On The Piazza

Check the website for up to date event details.  
[www.Ruthmere.org](http://www.Ruthmere.org)

## JOIN US FOR COFFEE ON THE PIAZZA

## CHILDREN'S GARDEN PARTY

