

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

The Ruthmere Record

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Spring/Summer 2023 *Ruthmere Record*

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Front Cover Photo: The Opening of Ruthmere Museum on September 8th, 1973. Pictured left to right are Governor Otis Bowen, Walter R. Beardsley, Mrs. Otis Bowen, and Founding Director Robert B. Beardsley.

A GOLDEN YEAR AHEAD

BY WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Fifty Year Anniversary, whether it's for your spouse or your organization, happens only once in a lifetime, and like any anniversary worthy of a precious metal, we try extra hard to "get it right." 2023 is the year where we start the celebration of 50 years of Ruthmere Museum. Officially, the first Opening Day was on September 8 (coincidentally the birth date of our late Founding Director Robert Beardsley), but we like parties at Ruthmere Campus so we're kicking off this celebration on our Opening Day for 2023, Saturday April 1.

For Opening Day we are doing something new—we are hosting the first annual Beardsley Neighborhood Day!

It's all about building stronger connections between ourselves and our community, enhancing our collective quality of life, and doing some rather "un-Ruthmere-like" things in the process. We'll start with picking up trash on neighborhood streets in the morning; later, we'll serve Nelson's Golden Glow chicken (or a vegan alternate from Moringa Tree) for just \$5 and host a giant bounce house where kids can be kids. Visitors will be able to explore the arts by trying a Pause and Paint activity or watching Plein

Air artists turn Ruthmere into beautiful works of art. There will also be a big tent from Sonoras Party Rental with festive music and lots of info tables from vital community partners—see our web site for the complete list.

And then there's the "Big Announcement" that day. Ruthmere has committed to starting up a Beardsley Neighborhood Curb Appeal Micro Grant program that will launch in 2024. For every dollar donated into this grant program, the Ruthmere Foundation



will match it 1 to 1, and 100% of the funds raised will be given to Beardsley Neighborhood residents to beautify their property fronts for the benefit of all. Applications will be available in January.

All of this celebrating, and it's just Opening Day. The next day, April 2, will be our first Free Family Sunday of 2023 sponsored by the CFEC—quite the weekend. But the Golden Anniversary celebration continues with a stylish commemorative mug for hot Coffee on the Piazza mornings or cool beverage sipping at EOQs, a summer special exhibit *Roaring Indiana in the Jazz Age* which opens the day before the Elkhart Jazz Festival, a blow-out Anniversary Bash on September 8 which will serve as our annual gala, and an unparalleled string of concert performers all year long.

Looking ahead with enthusiasm is easier when you can look backward with gratitude. None of this would be here the way it is without the trailblazing courage from generations of the Beardsley family. No Elkhart as we know it without Havilah and Rachel Beardsley. No Miles Laboratories or Elkhart Library Bookmobile without Albert and Elizabeth Beardsley. No Alka-Selter without Andrew "Hub" Beardsley, nor a strengthened League of Women Voters in Indiana without Helen Brown Beardsley. And two really close ones to my heart, no Ruthmere Museum without Robert Beardsley and no sustainable future for that museum campus without his father Walter Beardsley's love of fine art and legacy of generosity.

That's more than 50 years' worth of reasons to celebrate. But we're just getting started.

THE “DUKE” COMES TO RUTHMERE

BY JENNIFER JOHNS, CURATOR

The Ruthmere collection is taking on another piece of Elkhart history - one with significant family ties and a natural place in one of our museum campus locations. Ruthmere staff have been lovingly referring to this new acquisition as “The Duke,” and were delighted to receive this heirloom treasure of the Miles family from Ruthmere Director Emerita Dorinda Miles Smith.

Dr. Franklin Miles and A. R. Beardsley began working together in 1889 with the creation of the Dr. Miles Medical Company, which forged a friendship and eventually family ties. Dr. Miles' son, Charles, married A. R.'s niece, Rachel Beardsley. Both the Miles and Beardsley families loved to travel, and Italy seemed to be among their top destinations. In fall of 1901, Dr. Franklin Miles purchased a copy of Stefano Ussi's *The Expulsion of the Duke of Athens* by Aurelio Zingoni. The subject of the painting was inspired by the expulsion of Walter of Brienne, Duke of Athens, in July 1343. It is set in the Bargello Palace, where the Duke, who held tyrannous rule over Florence, is about to sign his resignation from government over the city. The original painting dates back to 1860. It was displayed in the 1861 National Exhibition in Florence, and at the 1867 Paris Exhibition, where it was awarded first prize and a gold medal.

The copy purchased by Dr. Miles was shipped to Chicago by steamship. It stayed in the family and in Elkhart for most of its existence, and was eventually given to his great-granddaughter, Dorinda Miles Smith. Dorinda no longer had room for the painting and gifted it to Ruthmere late last year. The painting comes with a treasure trove of detailed provenance documentation, which is a big deal when collecting art and historical objects.

So where will this new treasure end up on our campus? Ruthmere? The Havilah Beardsley House? Or somewhere else altogether? You'll just have to wait and see!

Right Top:
The Duke arrives, crated and well-packaged to protect the painting.



Right Middle:
Our deliverymen take on the difficult task of maneuvering The Duke up a narrow stairway to bring it up to the Arts Reference Library, where it will be stored for the time being.



Right Bottom:
Bill Firstenberger and Joy Olsen oversee the painting's careful placement into its temporary spot.



Dr. Franklin Miles' copy of The Expulsion of the Duke of Athens, circa 1901.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT: *ROARING INDIANA IN THE JAZZ AGE*

BY ANDREA HUTSLAR, OUTREACH CURATOR

Ruthmere visitors can expect another original exhibit roaring into the Havilah Beardsley House this summer.

The Roaring Twenties are some of the most prolific years in U.S. history. When you mention the 20s, several things come to mind: the flapper girls in their curveless, beaded dresses, nefarious gangsters bootlegging illegal alcohol and running sleazy underground speakeasies, and the radical, raucous sound of jazz. In truth, the 1920s – especially in Indiana and Elkhart – were a complicated decade of significant change – some good, some bad. Women had the vote, but the Ku Klux Klan had the government firmly in its grasp. African Americans were given new opportunities to become musicians and artists, but faced new waves of segregation and continued to fight for their rights as American citizens. Nowhere were these conflicting developments more obvious than in Indiana.



Instruments being made at C.G. Conn Co., circa 1920. Photo from the Elkhart County Historical Society Collection.

In *Roaring Indiana in the Jazz Age*, Ruthmere will be exploring the prominent themes of the Jazz Age in Elkhart and in Indiana as a whole. Our state played an important part in the rise of jazz, cultivating

the careers of big names like Hoagy Carmichael and Louis Armstrong at Gennett Records in Richmond, Indiana and composer/songwriter Cole Porter. Elkhart helped to fuel the flames of the movement – several band instrument companies thrived here in the 1920s, including those of Conn, Martin, and Buescher.

But the Jazz Age isn't all about jazz. While jazz is certainly indicative of the shifting attitudes of the time, it was underlain by complex social issues. *Roaring Indiana* will discuss the ties between prohibition and the KKK's rise to power in Indiana, as well as the hot-blooded criminal mindset of local gangsters, bank robbers, and the vigilantes who sought to bring these men to justice. We will also cover the other positive outcomes of the era – the powerful literature, the inspired artists, and the strong-willed public figures who brought about important changes in our community.



D.C. Stephenson, Grand Dragon of Indiana KKK in the 1920s. He heavily influenced Indiana politics. Photo from the Indiana Historical Society.

Roaring Indiana will be composed of pieces from our own collection as well as loans from the Wayne County Historical Museum in Richmond, the Indiana Historical Society, the Indiana State Museum, and the Elkhart County Historical Museum. Stop by the Havilah Beardsley House between June 22 and September 30, 2023 to transport back in time and learn about the part Indiana played in the age of jazz.



Helen Brown Beardsley, first president of Indiana League of Women Voters, helped to pass 19th Amendment in Indiana that gave women the right to vote.

Thank you to our exhibit sponsors, Steve and Julie Bachman!

ENTREPRENEURS ARE PART OF RUTHMERE'S MISSION

BY WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One doesn't have to look far to see entrepreneurship in Elkhart's DNA, but do we ever stop to ask ourselves from where it comes? One thing about working in a history museum is that we develop a broad perspective of the world, almost as an occupational hazard. Just when you think you know the root cause of something that happened in the past, you're bound to come to the following realization, "yes, but what made THAT happen and why?"

Anyone who looks closely at Elkhart County, Indiana, pretty much acknowledges that something is different here when it comes to business entrepreneurship. Of course, around Ruthmere Campus we like to tout names such as Albert and Elizabeth Beardsley, Helen Brown Beardsley, James Rufus and Susie Ray Beardsley, and of course, Dr. Havilah Beardsley as innovators and ground-breakers extraordinaire. But who influenced the Beardsley clan, and why here particularly in Elkhart?

I like pointing to the unusually positive relationship between Havilah Beardsley and Chief Pierre Moran as an example of "mutually-risky good will" that set the tone for this place where we live. Who but Pierre Moran could have shielded the American settlers of Elkhart County from the Black Hawk uprising that claimed so many settlers' lives in a reaction to decades of unfair treaties and land cheating practices that robbed Native Peoples of the rights to their ancestral lands? While it can be dangerous to speculate with history, Chief Moran perhaps saw Elkhart as an opportunity for peaceful cohabitation with white settlers and an end to frontier violence. It's a romantic thought, I know, but one grounded in at least a few facts related to the documented trust shared between Beardsley and Moran. Some might even consider the concept of their mutual respect between diverse cultures in the early 19th century as an *innovative* idea.

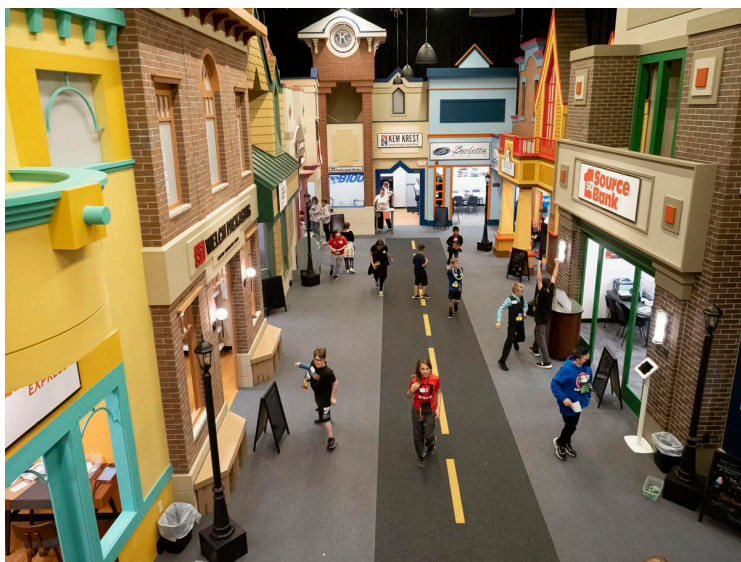
Push the questions further. Where did this Kickapoo-Potawatomi Pierre Moran develop his skills for creative



Gathering Wild Rice by Captain Seth Eastman, 1853, depicts Native women of the 19th century in the Great Lakes Region.

problem solving? We know that he was a warrior leader as a youth when he was with the Kickapoo tribe, but after the defeat at the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811 and his role in that failed attack, he was banned from the Kickapoo, and was shortly after accepted by the Potawatomi in the St. Joseph River Valley as a territorial chief. It's a very *entrepreneurial* trait to keep trying after a failure, and apparently it's a characteristic that Moran embraced. Certainly Havilah Beardsley would have watched and learned from Pierre Moran as he remade his life with a new tribe in a new place and quickly rose to prominence.

The Potawatomi culture also carried the reputation for seasonal *adaptation*, often traversing Lake Michigan and going to the lake's western shore in present day Wisconsin for summer hunting grounds and returning to the St. Joseph River Valley for winter months. While virtually all Native Peoples subscribe to the belief of living in harmony with nature as opposed to competing in nature, not all took this idea of seasonal relocation to the level of *ingenuity* witnessed with the Potawatomi. Moving camp every year in order to harvest the seasonal natural abundance can be easily interpreted as *resourceful and inventive* thinking.



Junior Achievement Elkhart Biztown, a simulated town where students can learn about business, citizenship, money, and responsibilities.

So what does this mean for Ruthmere and entrepreneurship? As mentioned in the 2022 Fall/Winter issue of the *The Ruthmere Record*, we are committed in both our organizational mission and vision to promote and recognize the entrepreneurial impact of Elkhart and this unique identity of our community. One way we are starting to do that more directly is by supporting like-minded organizations that also hold this same value.

In December of 2022, the Ruthmere Foundation gave \$5,000 of direct support to the Junior Achievement Elkhart BizTown project to assist them in finishing their capital campaign for this wonderful new educational asset. Every year the Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce is given a complimentary Ruthmere Campus tour for its Leadership Academy class and the Chamber Ambassadors are invited to attend EOQ business networking events. Ruthmere continues to be a significant sponsor for Start Up Moxie Elkhart County's annual Smart Meets Heart Showcase event where the business owners of tomorrow cut their teeth by pitching business ideas to local investors.

We want EVERY Ruthmere supporter to know that when you give to Ruthmere Campus, you are also supporting a whole host of efforts that preserve Elkhart County's entrepreneurship as a cornerstone of our community identity from the ancient past to a shared and prosperous future.

INTRODUCING A NEW STAFF MEMBER

By JENNIFER JOHNS, CURATOR

Welcome our newest staff member, Ruth Rockwell! She will be taking on the role of Support Staff, helping with weekend coverage and special events. Ruth is a familiar face at Ruthmere; she has been a docent since 2012, giving tours at both Ruthmere and the Havilah Beardsley House. Over the past few years, she has been a vital part of the tea team that assists Joy Olsen with our yearly teas. Ruth is a retired nurse and loves serving in the community. The Soup of Success program at Elkhart's Church Community Services and the Elkhart Humane Society are among some of the organizations where she volunteers in her free time. Ruth will be helping Joy with weddings, and she will, of course, continue to help with the wonderful tea programs that Ruthmere offers throughout the year.



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Teryl Yoder
Dana & Kevin Young
Nadine Zerger

Learn about our new membership and support structure on page 10.

Do you have questions or need to update your membership? Contact Membership Coordinator Mark Doddington at (574) 264-0330 ext. 107 or mdoddington@ruthmere.org.

RUTHMERE RISING MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT STRUCTURE

BY WILLIAM A. FIRSTENBERGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the past decade, together we have seen monumental changes at Ruthmere. We've witnessed our museum campus expand, our collections and programs grow, and our financial future become bright and secure. We owe this all to you, our supporters who have stuck with us through many challenges and a few glorious achievements. During the process of reviewing our strategic plan for the future, it became obvious to our Board that we need to simplify our support structure as well as clarify and strengthen recognition. Our goal is to make giving to Ruthmere easy and flexible, offering you the ability to give with confidence, and ultimately keep you very pleased with your gifts of support.

In January of 2023 we launched our new simplified structure called "Ruthmere Rising." Here are the key points:

- Membership is affordable and equal for all. No more confusing levels with different benefits. We have Private Membership at \$60 per year for individuals and families, and Business Membership for \$120 per year.
- Philanthropy is at the heart of this simplified design. Perhaps you've been enrolled in a Patron level membership as part of your charitable giving plan, but you may have been paying for unused benefits. **Your continued support is absolutely vital to our success**, but you will now have better options for placing your philanthropic dollars to Ruthmere.
- Ruthmere Forever is one place for these philanthropic gifts. You may give to daily operational support and/or to our endowment sustaining support with "no benefits strings attached" and each path is 100% tax deductible. Clean. Simple. Easy.
- Program sponsorship opportunities are being offered so you can fix your name or business to your passion. What's your favorite Ruthmere program? There will be an affordable sponsorship option just for you—we promise!

- Recognition is our duty. We want EVERYONE to know that Ruthmere is important to you. We are committed to expanding support recognition outlets, honoring confidentiality and anonymity whenever requested.

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2022 was an extremely successful year for our Ruthmere Forever campaign, with a total of \$111,913 given from 77 donors! A majority of the donations came from Ruthmere Forever Challenge matches (\$100,225.50). \$9,350.00 of the gifts were given as Ruthmere Forever Experience Donations into our Endowed Fund managed by the CFEC, who in turn gave us an additional 25%. THANK YOU!

RUTHMERE FOREVER CHALLENGE MATCH

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Marc & Kris Stahl



RUTHMERE CONCERTS “SPRING” INTO ACTION

BY MARK DODDINGTON, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Building on the success of 2022’s inaugural Spring Concert Series, Ruthmere has lined up an exciting list of artists for 2023. In addition to traditional classical piano, we are also offering jazz and a unique evening of Renaissance tunes.



The season starts on May 11 as we welcome the Fischoff National Chamber Music Association soirée, highlighting a selection of the finest young musicians in the United States today. Per tradition, a variety of Fischoff competitors will come together in the Ruthmere Game Room for an impromptu jam session.

On May 25, we welcome classical pianist Joel Schoenhals, making his Ruthmere debut. Schoenhals, a graduate of the prestigious Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester in upstate New York, currently teaches at Eastern Michigan University as well as Central China Normal University in Hubei. He has performed and competed across the globe, and will bring his worldly style our way.



Joel Schoenhals

June 8 welcomes Lute Song Trio of The Baltimore Consort. In its entirety, the Baltimore Consort is a six-piece ensemble specializing in music of the Renaissance era. Lutes, mandolins and recorders blend with sweet vocals in a time-honored harmony. A subset of The Baltimore Consort, consisting of lute player Ronn McFarlane, Mary Anne Ballard on viola da gamba, and soprano Danielle Svonavec,



Lute Song Trio of The Baltimore Consort

will bring their magical sound to Ruthmere. This concert will be held outdoors, weather permitting, in harmony with the Elizabethan ideal, and will feature ballads composed by William Shakespeare himself, among others.

Closing out the Spring Concert Series on June 22 is jazz great Jeremy Kahn, making a return appearance after several years away. A Chicago-area

native, Kahn has played with the likes of Dizzy Gillespie, Joni Mitchell, Alvin and the Chipmunks and Aretha Franklin, to name just a few. He is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and, like many of our artists over the years, has played and competed around the world.

All Spring Concerts are on Thursday evenings, beginning at 7:00 pm. Doors open at 6:30. Tickets are \$25 for Ruthmere members, \$40 for non-members.

Season passes are also available to members only at \$100. All tickets must be purchased in advance as seating is limited. Contact Ruthmere at (574) 264-0330 or go to www.Ruthmere.org to make your reservations, to become a member, or to learn about exciting sponsorship opportunities.



Jeremy Kahn

NEW VOLUNTEER AWARDS

BY JENNIFER JOHNS, CURATOR

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Ruthmere. We greatly appreciate all the hours they put in each year, and many friendships have grown between volunteers and staff. This year, Ruthmere is announcing two new volunteer awards that will be given out annually. The first is the Annette Kozak Volunteer Award for Hospitality. Annette came to work at Ruthmere in 2007 as the Wedding Coordinator, and she always had a bright disposition and loved dealing with the public. Annette continued to work at Ruthmere until 2013 as weekend site manager and wedding assistant. After her retirement, Annette moved closer to family but passed away in 2019 after some health issues.

Our second award is the Laura Funk Volunteer Award for Education. Laura started at Ruthmere in 2002 as a tour guide and eventually became Volunteer Training Coordinator. When the job ended, she continued to volunteer for us; you could find her almost every Saturday afternoon at Ruthmere. Laura is a retired teacher, and her skills were very useful for leading tours. Laura stepped away from volunteering after the Covid pandemic.

Our inaugural award winner for the Annette Kozak Volunteer Award for Hospitality is Lucy Emery. She began volunteering for Ruthmere as docent in 2012. When the restoration of the Havilah Beardsley House was complete, she started volunteering on Thursday afternoons. Lucy has a passion for history and it shows when she gives tours.

Our inaugural award winner for the Laura Funk Volunteer Award for Education is Marty Weber. She has been volunteering for Ruthmere since 2014, regularly joining us every Friday afternoon. You can also find her working the grounds or being part of our tea team.

We are grateful for all of these women and their commitment to Ruthmere!



Annette Kozak



Laura Funk



Lucy Emery



Marty Weber

BILINGUAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BY CAROLYN BONANNO, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Ruthmere advocates life-long learning for our entire community. As such, we are aware of the need for greater diversity and equality for the growing Latinx population in Elkhart. One way in which we can address this need is to recruit bilingual volunteer docents, removing the difficult language barriers that prevent guests from enjoying and learning from their tour. We want to make our museum as welcoming to as many people as possible. Do you speak Spanish or know someone who does? Contact Carolyn Bonanno at cbonanno@ruthmere.org or (574) 264-0330 (ext. 101) to volunteer!

2023 COFFEE REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

BY MARK DODDINGTON, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Always on the lookout for something new and exciting, Ruthmere brings a lively—and expansive—lineup to this year's summer Coffee on the Piazza series. In addition to welcoming back a few favorites, we are also pleased to welcome several new artists to the roster.

Leading off the season on June 3 is Julia James, who last performed at Coffee back in 2018. On June 10, we welcome back Mykayla Cynthia, who has developed a devoted following among the Ruthmere crowd. Classic rock and pop singer Marty Miles brings a blend of oldies and originals on June 17.



Mykayla Cynthia performs at Coffee on the Piazza

We start July with perennial fave Cool Change Band on the 1st. July 8 welcomes blues rocker Sam “Sambo” Moore, making his Ruthmere debut. Internationally-known country singer Michael Harding graces the Piazza on July 15, followed on the 22nd by folk/pop vocalist Natalie Gaza, making her second appearance. Closing out the month on July 29 is pop/rock fave The Rust Show, featuring lead singer Carl Rust.

Pop duo Pinter Whitnick leads off the month of August on the 5th, followed on the 12th by Star Heart, who bring their own sleek interpretation of the pop/rock genre. Long-time favorite Mel Williams returns on August 19. Finally, closing out the 2023 season on August 26 is blues and country singer Jeff Colin.

The highlight of the season, undoubtedly, shows Coffee on the Piazza in a whole new light as we welcome Sentimental Journeys on June 24. A full-blown big band, Sentimental Journeys brings 20 jazz greats—yes, that's right, 20!—to the Ruthmere grounds. In harmony with Elkhart's world-renowned Jazz Fest, which will be in fifth gear across the river, Sentimental Journeys brings a vivacious blend of swing and big-band classics our way.

All Coffee on the Piazza events take place on Saturday mornings. Gates open at 10:00 a.m., rain or shine. The music starts at 10:30 and runs until noon. Once again, The Refinery in Goshen will be supplying the free all-you-can-drink coffee. We will also have Rise N' Roll donuts for a \$2 donation. Tom Myers is the Coffee on the Piazza Presenting Sponsor, but we are thrilled to announce new sponsorship opportunities for others to share the ownership. For just \$50 you can be a Coffee Club Sponsor and get an ultra cool (or hot!) commemorative thermal mug to sip in style!

These free events are open to anyone and are family-friendly. Games and good music in a bucolic garden setting make the perfect way to begin your weekend. We hope to see you there!

BRINGING CLAY TO LIFE - 3RD ANNUAL POTTERY FAIR

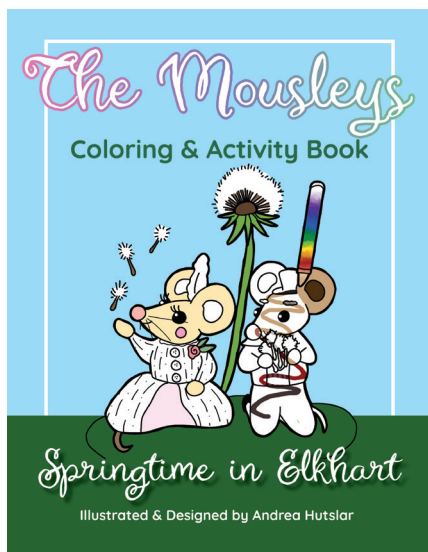
BY CAROLYN BONANNO, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

We've been amazed by the creative works of local potters for the past two years here on the grounds of Ruthmere Museum. Once again, they will come to grace us with their presence on Saturday, July 15 from 10am – 3pm. Molding the shape of clay is no simple task and their wares have been far above the work of any novice. The sales have been excellent and those who have come appreciated the different types of pottery. Just a little hint...we plan to have something new this year. Come again or for the first time! It's a fun day for everyone. You won't be disappointed!

A MOUSE OF MANY COLORS

BY ANDREA HUTSLAR, OUTREACH CURATOR

The little Mousleys, the stars of our new children's books, made a big impression with their debut at the beginning of 2022. *The Mousleys at Ruthmere* and *A Merry Mousley Christmas* have been popular gifts for the kids (and adults who just love Ruthmere and Elkhart), and their success promises a building engagement with younger audiences within the museum. This year, we are happy to announce another, somewhat different installment for the Mousleys – a unique coloring and activity book!



The Mousleys Coloring & Activity Book: Springtime in Elkhart is a new way for kids to engage with us and take a little bit of the museum home with them. It features multiple coloring pages with potential for a lot of creativity, following the Mousleys as they enjoy the flowers of spring and their favorite springtime hobbies. There are also some activities, as the title suggests – some of the usual things you'd find in a coloring book, like crossword puzzles, connect the dots, and color by number, along with a unique Elkhart history matching game for a little light education.

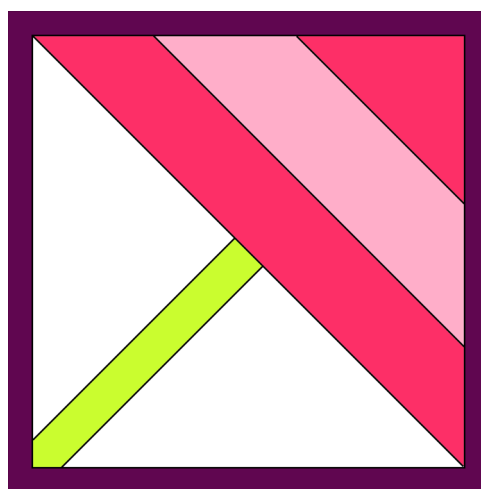
We hope to debut the coloring book not long after Opening Day of 2023. Along with it, we have plans to hold a Children's Arts & Crafts Day on May 6th where we can further promote creativity and inspiration for the kids. Look for a time and other details on our website within the next few weeks!

2023 QUILT GARDEN: THE PARASOL

BY BREE ASKEW, CAMPUS GARDENER, AND ANDREA HUTSLAR, OUTREACH CURATOR

This year's Quilt Garden continues a theme that we have used in the past - drawing inspiration from art found within the walls of the museum.

Parasols, usually made of silk, satin, or lace, have been around since ancient Egypt. They became a fashion staple by the 16th century, and in the 19th century, they were also used to shield from the sun to help protect the desirable pale complexion of the ladies who carried them. The shades could have beautiful, delicate patterns, while the handles and shafts could be made of carved wood, ivory, silver, or gold. At Ruthmere, there are a few 19th-century parasols in our collection. Albert Beardsley's bedroom, the gold-tinted room on the second floor, also has a gold parasol design on the ceiling, adorned with pink flowers – a favorite of his wife, Elizabeth. It was from this design that we selected the colors for this year's garden.



The garden will consist of begonias (red leaf pink flower, green leaf pink flower, and white) and impomoea potato vine (black and sidekick heart lime). We do not yet have a planting date for this year, but we expect

it to be in mid-May. If you are interested in volunteering with the planting, please contact Bree Askew at baskew@ruthmere.org or (574) 264-0330 (ext. 109). You can view all of the Quilt Gardens along the Heritage Trail between May 30 - September 15, 2023.

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

SAY “I DO” TO A VINTAGE (YET ELEGANT) STYLE

By JOY OLSEN, COLLECTIONS MANAGER

Ruthmere’s three “jewel-themed” wedding venues can offer couples a memorable wedding space filled with authentic charm!

SOMETHING OLD! Whether the wedding is held at Ruthmere’s beautiful courtyard garden or at The Havilah Beardsley’s formal parlor, the ceremony will be one wedding guests will talk about for many years to come.

SOMETHING NEW! When it’s time for the bride to adorn that new gown, a dressing room is provided for her and her bridesmaids just steps away from the ceremony site.

SOMETHING BORROWED! Ideas are shared and passed down from couples who have started their life’s journeys in the historic mansion’s garden, such as vows exchanged under Ruthmere’s wedding arch.

SOMETHING BLUE! The sweet smelling garden is planted in one of Elizabeth Beardsley’s favorite colors...

BLUE! The final element to a lucky and fulfilled wedding is provided for the couple. No worries there!

Whether today’s modern bride chooses to use country gingham and denim or sophisticated satin and lace, it all works fine in a stunning way when the backdrop is timeless. If you are the bridal couple that has just become engaged, or know of someone who is, consider one of the historic locations on the Ruthmere Museum Campus.

Say I DO, and add your event to Ruthmere’s list of beautiful weddings! Contact Joy Olsen at (574) 264-0330 (ext. 103) or jolsen@ruthmere.org to inquire.

RUTHMERE WEDDING JEWEL PACKAGES



- **DIAMOND** - Up to 150 guests in Ruthmere’s wedding garden. \$1,250 (additional charges may apply).



- **EMERALD** - Up to 25 guests at the Havilah Beardsley House. \$1,000.



- **RUBY** - Microwedding, up to 5 individuals. \$400, and \$25 for each additional person. Either house available.

Visit Ruthmere.org to learn more about the wedding jewel packages.