

THE RUTHMERE RECORD

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

SUMMER 2005

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SAVORING SUMMER AT RUTHMERE WITH NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

Marilou Ritchie, Archivist/Librarian

My office window at Ruthmere looks out onto the formal garden. During these hot weeks of summer, the blue and white garden has undergone transformation through the efforts of grounds crew Ron Wolschlager, Desco Glass, Amos Enane, teen volunteer David Green, and, especially, advanced Master Gardener Pam McIntire.

At the time of the spring Board of Directors meeting, the garden was already overgrown and unruly, just daring us to let a few rain-soaked nights and hot days go by before becoming a bona fide jungle. The grounds crew stepped in to perform a kind of triage on the garden. Within a few days they had created a beautiful setting for our summer garden events. We have been enjoying their handiwork ever since.

Our first Children's Summer Garden Party, on Saturday, July 9, brought big drums, multicultural stories, magic, and gooey ice cream sundaes to this lovely outdoor setting. Friends, both young and young at heart, stayed throughout the afternoon for activities that included watching artists' canvases come to life through direct inspiration from the garden and watercolor painting on small paper lanterns.

Guests at WNIT's "Return to Ruthmere" Directors' Circle Reception on July 28 enjoyed idyllic weather, fine food and drink, and a special look at Ruthmere's 1917 Cadillac. Hosts Bob and Peggy Weed were treated to a short drive in the vintage auto by volunteer Dean Hupp, who brought the classy chassis roaring back to life just in time for the lyrical evening gathering.

New Ruthmere programs Coffee on the Piazza and the Beardsley Avenue Historic District Walking Tour have been gaining exposure and popularity. Guests enjoy lingering on the piazza with a cup of coffee or a cold beverage before starting a house tour or walking tour.

We have some exciting plans for fall, especially in connection with our new membership program. Members will have the opportunity to participate in two very special events: the centennial birthday party for Walter Beardsley, hosted by Robert Beardsley, on Sunday, October 23, and a visit to the masterful South Bend home of architect Thomas Gordon Smith on Tuesday, November 8. Look for details in an upcoming mailing.... And savor what is left of your summer.



Curator of the vintage automobile collection, Dean Hupp, inspects the engine of the 1917 Cadillac as teen volunteer David Green looks on.



The "Hollyhock" window that Walter Beardsley purchased from Mrs. Nassau now graces the library stairway.

NOTES FROM AN OAKEN AERIE...

Marilou Ritchie, Archivist/Librarian

When I was filing some new catalog cards the other day, I began thinking of card catalogs in general and how much I miss them. My college days were filled with hours thumbing through card catalogs. One might start with an intended topic and find all kinds of interesting digressions along the way. I know this is still true to some extent with the computer—with your own pc—but library computers really want you to stick to the subject. You look up a title or an author or a subject, but most often you find your author or title, go to the stacks to find the book, and check it out if you are lucky. Nothing invites you to smell the roses—or old books—you might find along the way.

And why do I waste your time with this trip down nostalgia lane? The Robert B. Beardsley Arts Reference Library maintains its own catalog. Of course, you can find us on the internet. You can type in a title and find out whether we have it. But if you come in to the library, you can thumb through a real card catalog. Granted, it's small; we only have about 1800 books. Nevertheless, it is filled with buff 3x5 cards with holes in them, just like you remember from days of yore in the 20th century. Most of them were typed right here by human hands and filed by human hands, and human hands thumb through them. You can too.

One subject that has a special place in our card catalog is *Louis Comfort Tiffany*. Some of the earliest purchases of the library were books about Tiffany; they include a couple of small books by Victor Arwas and Robert Koch which consist of many pictures and a small amount of text for a quick read, but also some more scholarly works: Robert Koch's *Louis C. Tiffany, Rebel in Glass*, and *Louis C. Tiffany's Glass, Bronzes, Lamps*, which contains many pages from original Tiffany catalogs, and Alastair Duncan's *Louis Comfort Tiffany. The Artwork of Louis C. Tiffany* was originally intended for Tiffany's children to record their father's accomplishments; the 1914 work was reprinted in 1987, when we were able to purchase it.

Our most recent purchase is Dr. Egon Neustadt's *The Lamps of Tiffany*. Tiffany's motto was "To bring beauty into your home, so that you can live with it, and so enhance your life," and his lamps certainly worked toward that purpose. This book is a complete catalog of his lamps, illustrated beautifully with full color photographs. Come in and spend an afternoon looking through these lovely books. As always we're here from 10 to 3 on Wednesday and from 1 to 3 on Thursday, or call 574 264-0330 for a special time.

MEMBERSHIPS—JANUARY THRU JULY 2005

Louis Comfort Tiffany

Leadership Circle

Platinum Level

Arthur J. Decio Foundation
Alice A. & Rex Martin
Joan Beardsley Norris

Rose-Gold Level

Dorinda Miles Smith

Gold Level

Christopher & Sarah
Chocola
Corson Family Foundation
Arthur J. & Patricia Decio
Robert & Mary Pat Deputy
Laurel Spencer Forsythe
George & Kathy Freese
Craig & Connie Fulmer

General Membership:

Silver Level

Robert & Gail T. Martin

Bronze Level

Laura Funk
David & Deborah Griffis
Neil & Patricia Klockow
Phil & Bonnie Penn
Tim & Meg Shelley
Steve & Kathy Sponseller
Robert & Peggy Weed

Patron

Bettie Dippo
Isabelle Freeman
Robert & Karin Frey
Keith & Nancy Holmes
Dean & Judy Kelly
Charles & Betty Lamb

Marilou Ritchie
Susie Warner

Family

Stuart & Paula Barb
J. E. & Carol Benson
John & Patricia Bickart
Glen & Renee Brookshire
Richard & Audrey Herzberg
Lori Kitkowski
Jerry & Kelly Martin
James & Ann McNamee
Russell Ritchie &
Anita Miller
Willard & Alice Roth

Individual

Marilyn Beardsley
Judy Bechtold
Jan Cawley
Carol Emens
Megan Freeman
Jan Grodnik
Robert Hatch
Richard Kennedy
Patricia Morison
Peg Owens
Mary Perron
Sue Reim
Karleen Richter
Sally Roth
Phil & Carole Staal
Elizabeth Steele
Peg Trobaugh
Michael Truax
Linda Unger
Marilyn Wilson



Rhythm Works of South Bend invite the audience to participate during a performance at the multi-cultural Children's Summer Garden Party.



A visitor admires Elkhart artist Francisco Avila, Ph.D. as he paints the formal garden and greenhouse during the Children's Summer Garden Party. Mr. Avila is a plant scientist who enjoys painting as an avocation.



Genesis Avila, Kahlia LeFever, and Madeline Koehler pose in front of Herm, Ruthmere's Art Nouveau garden sculpture, during the Children's Summer Garden Party.

House Tours:

Tuesday - Saturday on the hour at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m.
Sundays on the hour at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m.
Closed all major holidays.

Facilities Rentals at Ruthmere

Ruthmere offers a unique atmosphere for business meetings and private events. Our game room is a warm, yet distinctive setting for seminars, presentations, and other professional gatherings. Year-round, we can help you to plan the perfect indoor or outdoor wedding ceremony, birthday party, or other private celebrations.

For more information about reserving Ruthmere for your special event, please call (574) 264-0330 or e-mail us at info@ruthmere.org.

The Ruthmere Record is published quarterly from 302 E. Beardsley Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana 46514

NEW FACES AT RUTHMERE

Marilou Ritchie, Archivist/Librarian

Advanced master gardener Pam McIntire can now be seen pulling weeds, transplanting, and generally bringing under control Ruthmere's gardens and greenhouse. When Pam started working with her grandparents in their floral shop at age fifteen, she was fulfilling her dream of becoming a gardener; and she has continued to work in that field while she earned her certification as advanced master gardener from Purdue Extension. Now married with two children, she teaches horticulture and floral design at the Elkhart Career Center.

Joining the staff also at Ruthmere this summer are two interns, Eileen Corson and Jennifer Gregory. Eileen graduated from Purdue this spring and is currently seeking a job in English education either locally or in North Carolina. She has spent the summer researching several works of art at Ruthmere in order to give the docents a better understanding of them. She is also assisting Laurel with upgrading our public relations systems. Jennifer is still in school at IUSB as is her husband, John P. Gregory II. Majoring in history, Jennifer

plans to do graduate work in European studies or museum science after she graduates next spring. This summer she is researching the classical mythology represented in the museum collection, such as our Daphnis and Lycinion by Rodin and the lyrical ceramic Atalanta.

Working on our antique cars is volunteer Dean Hupp, a semi-retired systems auditor, who retains an interest in automobiles that began when he was 16 and helped a friend work on his Model A. In 1953 Dean married the girl who had been dating that friend and continued to work on cars as a hobby and to save money. After earning his BS from the University of Illinois in chemical engineering and a master's degree in the same field from Wayne University in Detroit, Dean worked at various jobs from Oklahoma to Virginia until 1964 when he came to work at Miles in Elkhart. He started there as an engineer, but worked his way to become Director of International Marketing before he retired in 1988.

Ruthmere is pleased to welcome these new faces.

produced by Tiffany studios. We visited her showroom in advance and told her what we wanted. No large "Lily" stained glass shades were available, but we must come anyway. How about next Saturday after lunch when all three of us will be in New York? Fine. We knew the prices would be high, so we hatched a cheery little plan. Let's take Dad to a smart business lunch on the East Side where adult beverages are served. That should put us all in a buying mood. It did.

Lillian met us at the door when we arrived about three o'clock. She had heard about Walter and welcomed him with charming hospitality. Suddenly we were in Aladdin's cave. Everything was gold, gold, gold, and iridescent in the richest colors imaginable. Each piece was displayed to advantage with subtle, but expert, use of lighting.

So where does one start when one wants everything? Quietly, Mrs. Nassau led the way, first showing us original Tiffany lampshades in all sizes and colors, including the famed "Wisteria" shade. This is the most sought after of them all but, no, no, it was not for sale. "Here is a 'Golden Poppy' design, 28" in diameter that might do nicely for you," she said. With six bulbs illuminating its gold, yellow, red, blue, and green glass, it shimmered tantalizingly. I was Ruthmere's Director at the time and well realized this would be perfect with the newly restored colors in the dining room. I hoped my father would like it. And he too, saw immediately this was the piece for us; so that was that, and I thought we were done. But not yet.

Next it was table lamps. A gorgeous peony lamp with the richest pinks and reds on a superb sculpted bronze base came into view. Mrs. Nassau didn't say a word, just gestured toward it with her hand. (Mrs. Nassau was good!) It was perfect for the library on the center table. I knew it would be

admired forever. Walter said "yes" again, and Ruthmere got another treasure.

Mrs. Nassau could see we were still not finished. Soon we were next to the Tiffany stained glass windows, stacks and stacks of them, from churches and houses all over America. Lillian started to extol the beauty of a "Hollyhock" window (60" x 30") on a pale blue ground. But she didn't have to go on. The window was just beautiful. Like many L.C. Tiffany windows, it was not signed; but that did not reduce its value or dampen our enthusiasm. Within minutes onto the list it went, the last of our purchases. We did not find the right place for it for ten years. Finally, it was installed in the wall in the stairwell going up to the Arts Reference Library, where it is very much at home today.

"Time out!" Walter called as we started to total our bill. "Let's see what I can do," Lillian said. She disappeared into her office and moments later came out smiling with the bill. "I think you should have all three pieces. They will be magnificent at Ruthmere, and you will never regret this purchase."

Of course she was right. Today our L. C. Tiffany collection is one of the principal attractions of Ruthmere, along with our Rodin bronzes, sculpture, American paintings, and antique automobiles.

I do remember Walter grumbling in his good-natured way as he wrote out a very big check: "Boy, that was some lunch!"

Years later we came across a 1922 photo of a family holiday dinner party at 226 East Beardsley Avenue showing the "Lily" shade. It was enormous, and overhanging the table like a flying saucer. Of course, we could not tell the colors from the black and white photo, but they must have been beautiful, probably all greens and blues. When I showed the picture to Walter, he said, "Yes, that's it, but, you know, I think I like the 'Golden Poppy' better!"

LUNCH LEADS TO TIFFANIES FOR RUTHMERE

Robert B. Beardsley, President, Board of Directors

In the early days of our restoration (1969-1973) we needed to replace some items that were either sold at auction in 1945 or otherwise lost over the years. My father, Walter, fondly remembered an L.C. Tiffany "Lily Design" lampshade that hung over his parents' table next door at 226 East Beardsley Avenue. That house was torn down in 1963. When my grandmother, Helen Beardsley (Mrs. "Hub" Beardsley), sold that house in 1946 to Aunt Ada and Uncle Charlie Beardsley, they, not

caring for it, shipped the "Lily" shade off to relatives somewhere in Michigan. Years later we searched for it through legatees in Ada's will, but the trail was cold. My father still kept talking about it. Could we find one like it? A Tiffany dining room lamp was obviously important to Walter and his enthusiasm for restoring Ruthmere.

A good friend of mine knew Lillian Nassau on 57th Street in New York City. Lillian Nassau, then and now, was the top authority on everything

Call Now to Join Our Bus Tour to Marshall, Michigan on September 10!

Join us as we travel by chartered bus from Ruthmere to Marshall, Michigan's 42nd Annual Historic Home Tour. The tour will feature eight vintage homes and will include five historic museums covering diverse specialties such as unusual architecture, antique home furnishings, Civil War memorabilia and a restored antique post office.

Ticket price includes round-trip transportation and admission to the home tour only. Lunch is on your own.

Members: \$45 per person

Non-members: \$50 per person.

Tickets may be purchased by calling Deborah Griffis at Ruthmere (574) 264-0330, ext. 101.



We will begin boarding at 7:45am in the parking lot at the 1st Presbyterian Church located across the street from Ruthmere. We will depart Marshall, Michigan at 5 pm.

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www.ruthmere.org



RUTHMERE MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Join us every Tuesday and Saturday during September at 10am for the Beardsley Avenue Historic District Walking Tour. Also, every Saturday in September: Enjoy Coffee on the Piazza from 9:30. A bottomless cup of java is \$2 (members); \$3 (non-members). Soft drinks and biscotti also available.

5 Labor Day (Closed)

8 The Robert B. Beardsley Arts Reference Library of American Domestic Architecture and Decorative Arts 25th Anniversary Open House (1 pm-3 pm). Dedicated on September 8, 1980, Ruthmere's reference library continues to be open to the public without charge to assist local researchers, art, architecture and garden enthusiasts. Refreshments will be served.

10 Marshall, Michigan Bus Trip. Join us as we travel by chartered bus from Ruthmere to Marshall, Michigan's 42nd Annual Historic Home Tour. The tour will feature eight vintage homes and will include five historic museums covering diverse specialties such as unusual architecture, antique home furnishings, Civil War memorabilia and a restored antique post office. Ticket price includes round-trip transportation and admission to the home tour. **LUNCH IS ON YOUR OWN!** Members: \$45 per person; non-members: \$50 per person. Tickets may be purchased by calling Deborah Griffis at Ruthmere (574) 264-0330, ext. 101. We will begin boarding at 7:45am in the parking lot at the 1st Presbyterian Church located across the street from Ruthmere. We will depart Marshall, Michigan at 5 pm.

30 Fall Concert Series: Mittenwald Trio, featuring Judith Weaver, Juliana Lockman & Elizabeth Steele 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited;

please call 264-0330 for reservations. Tickets are \$15 for non-members; \$12 for members.

OCTOBER

2 The Robert B. Beardsley Arts Reference Library of American Domestic Architecture and Decorative Arts Open House. Free admission to the reference library from 1pm-3 pm.

9 The Robert B. Beardsley Arts Reference Library of American Domestic Architecture and Decorative Arts Open House. Free admission to the reference library from 1pm-3 pm.

14 Fall Concert Series, Part 2: Bob Milne Presents an Evening of Ragtime Music 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited. Tickets may be reserved by calling 264-0330. \$15 each for non-members; \$12 each for members.

16 The Robert B. Beardsley Arts Reference Library of American Domestic Architecture and Decorative Arts Open House. Free admission to the reference library from 1pm-3 pm.

23 Walter Beardsley Centennial Celebration at Ruthmere, 4-7 p.m. Join us as we honor one of Elkhart's most prominent citizens on what would have been his 100th birthday. We will emphasize his contributions to Ruthmere's fine arts collections.

NOVEMBER

24 Thanksgiving Day (Closed)

25 Fall Concert Series: Nicholas Roth in Concert 7:30 p.m. Reception to follow concert. Seating is limited. Tickets may be reserved by calling 264-0330. \$20 each for non-members; \$18 each for members.