

The Ruthmere Record

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

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

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**COME FOR COFFEE
ON THE PIAZZA
BEGINNING
SATURDAYS IN JUNE
AT 9:30 AM!**

ART OF AFRICA: OBJECTS FROM THE COLLECTION OF WARREN ROBBINS

Objects from the Collection of Warren Robbins, an exhibition that highlights the private collection of the founder and former director of the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution, will be on view at Ruthmere beginning May 31 throughout the summer. This exhibition is funded in part by a grant from the city of Elkhart's Genesis program and Elkhart Community Bank.

Art of Africa presents more than 60 objects including sculpture, textiles, beaded clothing and jewelry, which broadly represent the creativity and diversity of artistic expression of nearly 30 cultures of sub-Saharan Africa. Accompanied by music and photographs, the exhibition will illustrate the broader cultural context in which these art forms were created and used. The collection is on loan from the Center for Cross Cultural Communication in Washington, D.C.

After leaving the State Department in 1962, Warren Robbins established an interdisciplinary educational institute, the Center for Cross Cultural Communications, out of his Capitol Hill home. A year later, Robbins purchased the Washington home of aboli-



Mask, Chokwe People, Republic of Congo

tionist Frederick Douglass and opened the Museum of African Art on Capitol Hill, the first museum in the US devoted exclusively to the rich, creative heritage of Africa. Its stated purpose was to "foster a deeper understanding of African culture, its history, its values, its creative tradition" and its relevance to lives of contemporary Americans.

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RUTHMERE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION BEGINS WITH EXHIBITION AT UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME'S SNITE MUSEUM OF ART

To honor the philanthropic nature and accomplishments of Walter R. Beardsley, and in celebration of the centennial anniversary of Ruthmere, the Snite Museum of Art will host an exhibition entitled *Blue I and Beyond: Selected Acquisitions Made Through the Walter*

R. Beardsley Endowment for Contemporary and Modern Art now through August 17 in the Millie and Fritz Kaeser Mestrovic Studio Gallery. Curator of the exhibition is Laurel Spencer Forsythe, Executive Director of The Ruthmere Foundation, Inc.

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Originally collected by European explorers and ethnologists as academic specimens or curios, African sculptures had, by the end of the 19th century, begun to accumulate in European natural history museums and found their way into the hands of dealers in antiques and the “exotic” arts. At the beginning of the 20th century, a handful of European artists in France and Germany were intrigued by the unique forms and styles of African art and began to draw creative inspiration from them. The aesthetic significance of African art became highly appreciated and respected in Europe and served as a catalyst for the artistic revolution that ushered in modern art around the world.

Dr. Ofori Ansa, the curator for the exhibition, is an associate professor of African art at Howard University, Washington, D.C. Born and raised in Ghana, West Africa, he has curated several contemporary and traditional African art exhibitions in Ghana and in the U.S. and has led study abroad tours to Ghana for the past 6 years.

Art of Africa is organized for tour by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C. and will travel to six museums over the next three years. International Arts & Artists in Washington, DC, is a non-profit arts service organization dedicated to increasing cross-cultural understanding and exposure to the arts internationally,



Chair, Baule People, Cote d'Ivoire

through exhibitions, programs and services to artists, arts institutions and the public.



Mondays with the Muse Program Series Explores African Art and Culture

Monday, June 23 at 4 p.m. Exploring African Art and Culture: Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* with the Reverend Georg Minnix

Monday, July 14 at 4 p.m. Exploring African Art and Culture: Rites of Transition with Professor Elizabeth Morton of Wabash College

Monday, August 11 at 4 p.m. Exploring African Art and Culture: Music and Traditional Instruments with Mary Oyer, Professor Emerita of Goshen College

NOTES FROM AN OAKEN AERIE...

MARILOU RITCHIE, LIBRARIAN / ARCHIVIST

Spring is finally beginning to show her lovely face, and the sunshine is inviting us to finish our orders in those seed catalogs that have been filling our mailboxes since the first of January. Now we can finish planning and start planting.

Here at Ruthmere we're excited about the quilt garden and the second year of the Tiffany garden, but we've reported on our collection of gardening books often enough. Since April is the month to celebrate magazines, let's look at some of our periodicals.

Among the current magazines, *Old House Journal* has a good article on hardy heirloom plants for sun or shade. *Victorian Homes'* Tea Table column offers information on Victorian Vegetarians, although

they neglect to tell us how to grow the vegetables.

However, our collection of old magazines has lots to offer on gardens and gardening. *Better Homes and Gardens* was only ten cents in 1936, but the information was just as valuable as it is today. And looking at an old magazine gives the added benefit of poring over the advertisements. A page in the August, 1917, *Ladies' Homes Journal* revealed ads for O'Cedar and Libby, which still exist, but also for Berthe's Maternity Corset which would appall most young pregnant women today.

A trip to Indianapolis last month revealed that northern Indiana does not have a monopoly on potholes; they're just as bad in Indianapolis. However, I learned

more than that: the Indiana Shared Library Catalog is migrating soon to a new system, which required additional training in online cataloging. The system includes about 30 small Indiana libraries that save money by publishing their catalogs as one shared catalog. At home you can log onto the Beardsley Arts Reference Library catalog through the Ruthmere website or through Indiana Shared Library Catalog or through INCOLSA, the collective group of Indiana libraries.

Or, better yet, we're here every Wednesday from 10am to 3pm and on Thursday from 1 to 3pm. You can come in and use our old-fashioned card catalog.



BOBBY MEETS BOB HOPE

ROBERT BEARDSLEY, PRESIDENT

Bob Hope (1903-2003) was a fast-rising comedian in the late 1930s when he began guest appearances on “The National Barn Dance” on WLS, an NBC radio affiliate in Chicago. The program aired every Saturday night from 6:30pm until midnight and was heard throughout the Midwest as well as rest of the United States and Canada. “The National Barn Dance” was sponsored by Miles Laboratories, Inc., of Elkhart, Indiana, the makers of Alka-Seltzer. Miles was a company founded, run, and mostly owned by members of my family in those days, so Bob Hope had good reason to make it down to Elkhart frequently, where he was always very much liked. By the way, Elkhart was not a particularly popular destination for sophisticated New York and big city advertising types back then. They frequently and somewhat disparagingly, I thought, referred to our fair city as “Moosejaw.”

Bob Hope was good friends with next-door neighbors Helen and Dick Snideman, a prominent and highly successful local businessman and his wife, and often stayed with them in their big new white brick house on the St. Joseph River, built in 1939. Dick, like Bob, was an ardent golfer and even had a putting green and driving range on his property

so he could practice swatting golf balls across the river, almost 250 yards wide at that point.

My parents were also good friends with Helen and Dick. Late one summer afternoon in 1940 when I was not quite seven, I was brought along to meet Bob, who was visiting and wearing golf togs, as I remember.

“Bobby, this is Bob Hope. Always remember you met him here at our house!” said Aunt Helen. I was impressed with his white flannel slacks and blue and white saddle shoes. They must have had spikes! I was not very tall at the time. He started talking “funny” to me. I don’t remember what he said, but I was quoted at the time as saying, “Gee, Mr. Hope, you are the funniest man I have ever met.” He responded cheerfully, “Thanks, Bobby, that’s what they pay me for!”

I remember he had a thin Mickey-Mouse mustache that he constantly brushed between his right thumb and forefinger and that he smelled of nice cologne. I must have also met his wife, Dolores, about that time because for many years, certainly through the war, I received a Christmas present from them every year, signed, “For Bobby, with love from Bob and Dolores Hope.” And every year I wrote and thanked them

for it as I was taught. But the toys never lasted much beyond January 1st when my mother, always conscious of those more needy than greedy little me, gathered them all up and gave them away. It’s the thought that counts, I guess.

Now, fast forward sixty years to a banquet in Tampa, Florida, hosted by my boyhood and very successful friend Jerry Williams and his beautiful wife Jane Jones Williams, whom I had dated briefly in high school days. Bob Hope was guest of honor and sat next to Jane. “Now tell me, Jane,” said Bob, “where do you come from and I don’t mean Tampa.” “Well, originally I am from Elkhart, Indiana, but we really haven’t lived there since we got married.” “Elkhart! Did you ever know Midge and Walt Beardsley?” “Oh, yes, and I dated their son for a while as a matter of fact.” “Bobby! So how is he and where is he now. . .” and they were off on a ramble about the long ago. He remembered everything and had something funny to say about everybody and kept Jane in stitches the whole evening. At the time Bob Hope was at least 95 years old. His recall of names and faces from sixty plus years before was phenomenal.


How nice it was to be remembered!



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUTDOOR THEATER AT RUTHMERE!

THE WITCH BY THOMAS MIDDLETON
ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY
KEVIN ASSELIN
COSTUME DESIGN BY
MELISSA BIALKO

See the rising young stars of tomorrow on Sunday, July 27 at 7 p.m. in this supernatural dramatic comedy of romance and witchcraft written by one of Shakespeare’s most noted collaborators!

Presented outdoors in a clever and accessible modern adaptation, *The Witch* is performed by gifted students from the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s College, and several other universities from across the nation. Performances are free of charge, perfect for a picnic and a great way to enjoy a warm summer evening with the entire family! 



Scene from Shakespeare play

BEARDSLEY MARINER'S COMPASS QUILT GARDEN AND OTHER GARDEN PLANS

One of the best ways to fight the winter doldrums is to plan a garden, and that is just what the garden committee did over the past winter's long stretch of dreary months. Last year the Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau teamed with Das Dutchman Essenhaus and several other area businesses to plan and plant pilot gardens based on quilt designs; the project was highly successful. This year the bureau has invited Ruthmere to participate in the project. The design

chosen is a simplified version of the classic star pattern, which was used for a quilt in the Ruthmere collection. The pattern is called the Mariner's Compass and boasts sixteen points in red and blue on a white ground. That quilt will appear in one of the bedrooms when the restoration of the Havilah Beardsley House is completed and will be on temporary display at Ruthmere this summer. The quilt garden design, a simplified version of the original compass quilt pattern, will be planted in mari-

golds, zinnias, and other sturdy flowers in the lot to the east of Ruthmere on Beardsley Avenue.

Other gardening plans for the season include improvements to the Tiffany Garden, which is still in its beginning stages, and plantings for the new garden on the back drive where the old blue spruce was recently removed. Since the early blooming of red emperor tulips has faded, blue, white and peach pansies are planted there. The formal garden continues to delight visitors of all ages with perennials and annuals in blues and whites. It features butterfly bushes, planted last summer, that draw many varieties of butterflies throughout the season.

Be sure to stop by to see the Quilt Garden this

summer and enjoy the other special garden areas at Ruthmere as well. ❀



A team of volunteer master gardeners assisted Ruthmere staff in planting this "quilt garden" in a compass pattern as part of the Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau summer program.

NEW HAVILAH BEARDSLEY POSTER DELIGHTS STUDENTS AND ADULTS

A beautiful poster, generously sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Art and Pat Decio, is now available at Ruthmere to announce the restoration of the 1848 Havilah Beardsley House. The full-color poster was designed by artist Jim Faigh of J. Faigh Design, who also designed the sign recently installed outside the house, at the corner of Main Street and Beardsley Avenue.

Ruthmere receives many students during the month of May, many of whom visit with their classes for springtime field

trips. Those who come on field trips, as well as those who come with their families on a weekend outing, receive a copy of the Havilah Beardsley House poster. The poster features images from Ruthmere's collection, including scenes from the Robert Grafton murals in the garage which depict trade along the St. Joseph River between Native Americans and early citizens. Prominently featured in the mural, and in the poster, is the Beardsley flour mill that stood on the north bank of the river and that became an emblem of

the city's early industry.

On the reverse side of the poster is detailed information about the early history of the city, including the history of the mills, the Beardsley family, and the architectural development of the Havilah Beardsley House. Visitors of all ages have been enjoying this new printed piece. If you'd like your own poster, please stop by Ruthmere Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm or on Sunday afternoon from 1 pm to 3 pm to pick one up.



LOUIS COMFORT TIFFANY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS

PLATINUM \$5,000

Arthur J. & Patricia Decio
Joan Beardsley Norris

ROSE GOLD \$2,500

Robert & Mary Pat Deputy
Dorinda Miles Smith
Peggy Weed
Scott & Kim Welch - Welch Packaging

GOLD \$1,000

Darlene Adkins
Robert Beardsley
Thomas & Lois Dusthimer
Laurel Spencer Forsythe
George & Kathy Freese
Craig & Connie Fulmer
Keith & Nancy Holmes
Alice & Rex Martin
David & Janet Weed

SILVER

William and Katie Bissell
Thomas & Elizabeth Borger
Jack & Karen Cittadine
Phil & Jeannette Lux
Robert & Gail Martin
Tim Portolese & Dr. Bruce Newswanger

BRONZE

Thomas & Dorothy Arnold
Stuart & Paula Barb
Thomas & Dorothy Corson
Laura Funk
Steve and Kathy Sponseller

PATRON

Steve & Jean Barton
Jane Burns
Jan Cawley

Mr. and Ms. William Cloar
Peter Combs
Virginia Combs
Linne & Rachel Dosé
Steven & Carol Eldridge
Donald & Judy Findlay
Robert & Karin Frey
Descos Glass
Charles & Phyllis Gordon
LaVerne Herzberg
Dean & Judy Kelly
Neil & Pat Klockow
Brad & Pam McIntire
James & Ann McNamee
Lawrence & Lynne Miles
Douglas & Karen Mick
Edward & Florence Monger
Peter & Becky Parmater
Bonnie & Phil Penn

Marilou Ritchie
Harold & Patricia Smith
Jon & Carol Smoker
Robert and Mary Lou Stackhouse
Frances Stock
Don and Claudia Stohler
Donald & Cidney Walter
Susan Warner
Arthur & Suzanne Wyatt

CORPORATE GOLD

Key Bank

CORPORATE BRONZE

Elkhart Community Bank
Borden Waste-Away

The exhibition at the Snite Museum is comprised of 35 artworks either donated from the Walter R. Beardsley private collection, collected by him during the 1950s–70s, or works acquired by the Museum since his death in 1980, using funds generated by the endowment Beardsley established for this purpose.

The show features works by major visual artists, such as prints by Pablo Picasso, Chuck Close and Richard Diebenkorn; paintings by Georgia O’Keeffe, Rufino Tamayo, Louise Nevel-

son and Joseph Stella; drawings by Pierre Bonnard, Edouard Vuillard and Thomas Hart Benton; and photographs by Ilse Bing, Paul Strand and Horace Bristol.

While serving as Miles Laboratories president, Walter R. Beardsley actively collected contemporary art and displayed many of the works in the corporate offices, boardroom, and halls of the Elkhart pharmaceutical firm. “He was pretty eclectic, but he was devoted to contemporary art,” said niece Joan Beardsley Norris, describing her uncle’s wide-ranging interests. An art lover visiting the company’s headquarters would delight in the array of paintings by Hans Hoffman, Max Ernst, Arthur Okamura and several other artists. Three-dimensional work included bronze sculptures by Max Ernst and Henry Moore.

Before his death in 1980, Beardsley donated several pieces from his extensive art collection to the Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame, and generously established an endowment for Contemporary and Modern Art.

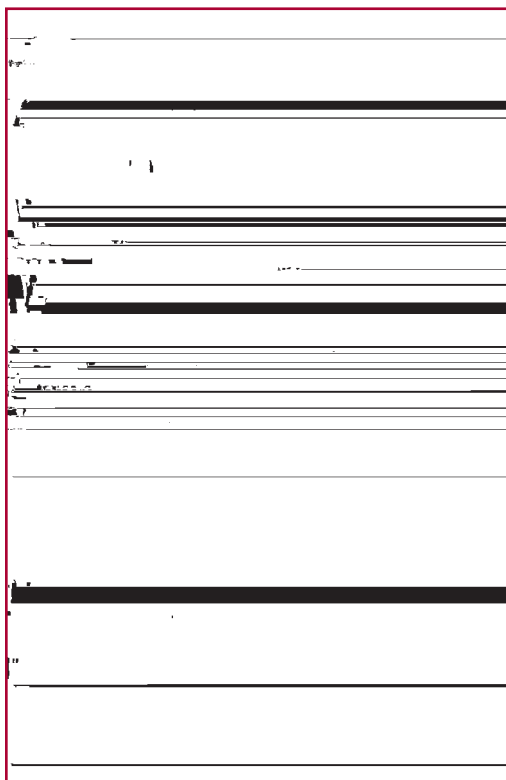
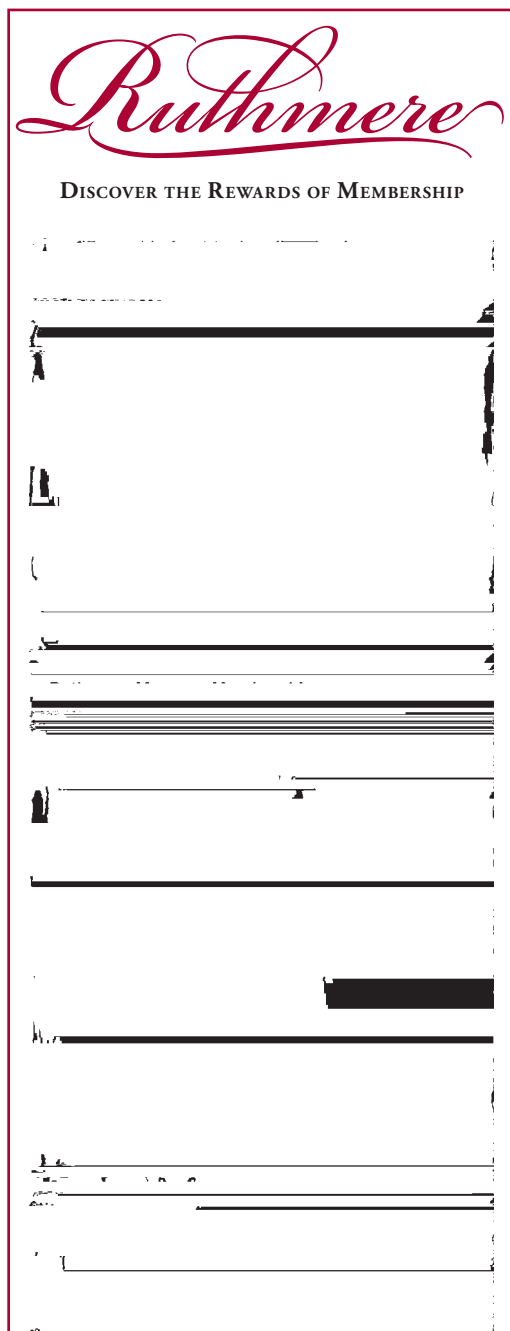
Ruthmere, built between 1908–10,

launches its centennial celebration with the exhibition at the Snite Museum of Art honoring Walter R. Beardsley and one at Ruthmere, thus honoring the artistic contributions to the Elkhart community by both Walter and his son, Robert Buchanan Beardsley. Today, their shared legacy as art lovers and collectors brings together two communities and two museums.

The Beardsley Foundation named Robert Beardsley director of Ruthmere following its purchase in 1968. Using a combination of historic research, family memory, period style, and personal connoisseurship, Robert Beardsley created period rooms and an art collection within the Beaux Arts style home which have been admired by preservation professionals and art lovers alike. After four years of restoration, Ruthmere opened to the public in 1973, and in 1978 was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Robert Beardsley encouraged his father to purchase some of Ruthmere’s most notable decorative and fine arts, including a limestone sculpture by Auguste Rodin, *Cariatide Tombée Portant Sa Pierre* and several bronzes by Rodin, including *La France* and *Daphnis and Lycenion*. Another important bronze is *L’Implorante*, by Rodin’s mistress, muse, and rival Camille Claudel. Also acquired by the father and son team were several works by Louis Comfort Tiffany: the dining room *Oriental Poppies chandelier*; a *Hollyhocks* window that now graces the stairway of the Arts Reference Library at Ruthmere; and a *Peonies* lamp in the home’s library.

For more information about Ruthmere and the various special events related to the centennial celebration, please visit our website, www.ruthmere.org or call 574.264.0330



Visiting the Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame:

The Snite Museum of Art is located on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, near South Bend, Indiana. Museum hours are 10 am to 4 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday; 10 am to 5 pm Thursday through Saturday; and Sundays 1 pm to 5 pm. Admission is free. Museum information is available at 574.631.5466 or at the Museum’s website: www.nd.edu/~sniteart/. University of Notre Dame driving directions and parking information are available at <http://ndsp.nd.edu/parking.html/>. Find

more information at ArtsEverywhere.com.

The Snite Museum of Art provides opportunities to enjoy, respond to, learn from, and be inspired by original works of art. As an integral unit of the University of Notre Dame, the Museum supports teaching and research; furthers faith-based initiatives for greater internal diversity and service to the external community; and reflects the traditions and values of the University.



On Thursday, November 6, 1980, Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., then the President of the University of Notre Dame, offered remarks at the dedication of the Beardsley Gallery at the Snite Museum of Art. Hesburgh stood in front of two paintings given to the Snite by Walter Beardsley that had been part of his personal collection, Blue I by Georgia O’Keeffe, and Man and His Guitar by Rufino Tamayo. Both paintings are featured in the exhibition at the Snite Museum of Art that celebrates Ruthmere’s centennial and the philanthropy of the Beardsleys.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: PAULA BARB

Paula Barb volunteers each week at Ruthmere in the office, performing a variety of essential clerical tasks. She assists with mailings, helps to update mailing lists, and works with the PastPerfect database to maintain records of volunteer hours and other important data. This summer she will begin a major project, working along with a college intern, to inventory the museum collection. Paula enjoys gardens and is a member of Ruthmere’s garden committee. She and her husband Stuart recently returned from a trip to North Carolina, where they celebrated with their son, who received his Ph.D.

Although a number of Ruthmere’s volunteers are a part of the docent corps and give guided tours, not everyone

enjoys public speaking. There are a number of opportunities available for volunteers at Ruthmere. Right now, we are particularly seeking those who would like to assist with hands-on tasks at the Havilah Beardsley House, especially light carpentry, cleaning and other work related to the restoration. Please call Laurel at (574) 264-0330 for more information, or email lforsythe@ruthmere.org.



Volunteer Paula Barb inputs information into Ruthmere’s database.

Thank You To Our Valuable Volunteers

Paula Barb, Judy Bechtold, Jan Cawley, Cindy Evers, Isabelle Freeman, Kathy Freese, Agnes Grahmbeck, Rusty Heckaman, Dean Hupp, Annette Kozak, Marie Smith, Peg Trobaugh



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

Through Sept. 4, 2008:
Art of Africa: Objects from the Collection of Warren Robbins

Saturdays: Coffee on Piazza Starts 9:30-11am

- 14 Children's Summer Garden Party (1-3 pm)
- 23 Exploring African Art and Culture: Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* with Reverend George Minnix 4pm
- 24-27 Children's Summer Garden Camp

JULY

Saturdays: Coffee on Piazza Starts 9:30-11am

- 06 Free Family Sunday
- 14 Exploring African Art and Culture: Rites of Transition with Elizabeth Morton of Wabash College 4pm
- 27 Members Only Event: Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival Producing Artistic Director Jay Skelton on Shakespeare 6pm (Game Room)
- 27 Notre Dame Young Company Performance 7pm "The Witch" by Thomas Middleton

AUGUST

Saturdays: Coffee on Piazza Starts 9:30-11am

- 03 Free Family Sunday & Ice Cream Social (1-4pm)
- 11 Exploring African Art and Culture: Music and Traditional Instruments with Mary Oyerof of Goshen College 4pm

Ruthmere

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

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Elkhart, IN 46515
Permit No. 151

CHILDREN'S SUMMER GARDEN PARTY ON JUNE 14

On Saturday, June 14, Ruthmere presents a Children's Summer Garden Party at 302 East Beardsley Avenue from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The outdoor Garden Party will feature lively storytelling with Chris Fascione and an interactive drum circle with Garner Wireman of Pulse Beat Nation. Children will be invited to create their own kites and

decorate paper lanterns with watercolors. Make-your-own ice cream sundaes and beverages will be offered for sale. Admission to the grounds is free.

The Children's Summer Garden Party celebrates the diversity of cultures found in Ruthmere's fine arts collections, which include works of art from Asia, Europe, Russia, the Middle East,

the United States, and other parts of the world. Albert and Elizabeth Beardsley, founders of Ruthmere in 1908-1910, loved travel and brought their appreciation of other cultures back to Elkhart, believing that this would enrich their community and add to their enjoyment of life.



RUTHMERE WELCOMES NEW CURATOR OF EDUCATION

Ruthmere is pleased to welcome Kristi Helmkamp to the staff as Curator of Education. Educated at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Kristi holds an M. A. in art history. She has moved to the area with fiancée Nick Hoffman, who is the new director of the Elkhart County Historical Museum in Bristol.

Kristi replaces Rusty Heckaman, who came to Ruthmere as an intern in December 2005 while completing his undergraduate work in history at Indiana University- South Bend. After deliberating between a career in museum work and library science Rusty chose to pursue a master's degree in Library Science,

which he has nearly completed. He left his position at Ruthmere to accept a full-time position with the St. Joseph County Library System. Rusty returns to Ruthmere as a volunteer for Free Family Sundays and other events, and remains a valued member.

