

# Community mourns loss of Ruth Sass

May 20, 1935 – March 3, 2022

Ruth Sass passed away peacefully on March 3, 2022, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Friends and family will lovingly remember her creative spirit, her amazing memory, her love of gardening, her eye for interior design, and her passion for traveling.

Ruth was a staunch supporter of Artpark & Company.

Secretary Vincent Agnello said, "I first met Ruth Sass in the fall of 2004. She vetted me as part of the nominating committee to serve on the Artpark & Company board of directors. She became my friend and mentor, as she did with many others.

"Ruth Sass was connected to Artpark from its inception, and it was her life's passion. While many people helped develop Artpark's national reputation of excellence, no one can match

Ruth's long-term commitment to improving it. While many now see it as a local treasure, she continued to see its potential to regain its national prominence in the arts.

"As a mentor, she taught me to always reach for the sky. I recall her telling me that, when the board sought donations locally, she traveled to NYC to get major corporations such as AT&T to make donations to Artpark. Ruth was instrumental in developing the gift shop building for Artpark from its original concept to its design and construction. If every significant institution had a gift shop, so should Artpark.



"She will be missed, but we are grateful for the legacy she leaves behind."

The past few years had been hard on Ruth, as she deeply missed her husband of 63 years. After William O. Sass (Bill) passed in 2017, Ruth focused on her family.

She is survived by her three children and five grandsons: Debbie and Fred Nelson (Chris and Turner), Cindy Sass and Craig Minsky (Cole), and Chris and Jinny Sass (Henry and Jefferson).

Ruth and her husband, Bill, had the good fortune of seeing many places across the globe. To her, travel was important since these experiences bring understanding of other cultures – which she believed could help eliminate preju-

dice and injustice. She encouraged all to travel!

Ruth loved people and devoted her life to helping others. A passionate person, she was always willing to get involved and help. Ruth was never afraid to speak her mind.

Sometimes outspoken but always good-hearted, Ruth's legacy is measured by all the lives she impacted. She led her life in the words of Henry David Thoreau: "If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

She always marched to her own drummer. Ruth shared a love of music and art with her loving husband, Bill. They spent much time together attending Buffalo Philharmonic concerts and stroll-

ing through the Albright-Knox Art Gallery. However, Ruth's true passion was dedicated to Artpark in her hometown of Lewiston. She was perhaps the organization's biggest advocate and fundraiser during its early years. Ruth served on the Artpark board and enthusiastically designed and opened the venue's gift shop.

Ruth loved ladybugs. These small colorful insects represent good luck, trust, abundance, wishes fulfilled and vibrant living – all tenants of Ruth's core beliefs.

In Ruth's memory, please make donations to The Ruth and William O. Sass Scholarship Fund at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Foundation (621 Tenth St., Niagara Falls) to support the next generation of health care professionals.

## IN THE NEWS

### LPAA Shred-It fundraiser

The Lewiston-Porter Alumni Association, a 501(c)(3) organization, is hosting its second annual Shred-It fundraiser event on April 30.

Organizers said, "Today is a good day to protect your identity. Do you have any personal information, old bank statements, canceled checks, or medical records that need to be destroyed? If yes, plan on attending."

This event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lewiston-

Porter High School driveway at 4061 Creek Road. Cost will be \$10 for one copy box or kitchen-size trash bag. There is no limit on the number of boxes or bags. Cash and check will be accepted as payment.

### NACC names new executive director

The Niagara Arts and Cultural Center's board of directors announced the appointment of Brian Fuss, Ph.D., as the new executive director. He began on April 4. Fuss has an extensive his-

tory in the nonprofit sector. He was executive director of an NYC-based low-wage worker organization, an advocate for affordable housing, a researcher focusing on social determinants of health, and, most recently, a development coordinator at The Foundry in Buffalo.

The NACC said, "He brings a wealth of knowledge about fund development, leadership, strategic planning, program creation and community relations. Brian is currently living in Buffalo with his husband, an English professor, and poet, but they are searching for the perfect apartment in Niagara Falls."

Fuss said, "I'm excited to serve as NACC's executive director and to be a part of the Niagara Falls community. NACC's rich history and preservation of art and culture drew me to the organization, and I look forward to continuing (and expanding) our positive impact on the community. My two immediate priorities are to preserve the magnificent NFHS structure and meet with all of the friends of the NACC."

The board of directors and the NACC staff will welcome Fuss at a meet-and-greet from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 9. The community can meet him at one of the NACC's upcoming events.

### Retired Lew-Port teacher John Loss to provide talk at Island Library

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be homeless? Did you ever think when you see a homeless man or woman, "How did this happen to them?"

So did John Loss, a retired Lewiston-Porter teacher, who wrote a book titled, "Not Always Homeless," which gives insights and answers to these questions.

Loss, at age 77, started to write his book on the homeless. He decided to concentrate his book writing on this city of his birth, which he knew well. After nearly three years of researching, interviewing and writing about the 13 Niagara Falls individuals who once were homeless or lived in the fear of being homeless, the book was completed. It was an endeavor that enabled Loss to do what he set out to do: give a "voice" to the homeless in Niagara Falls.

A press release noted, "These are fascinating stories of the ups and downs of these 13 individuals who bared their souls on their homelessness. This included their time before, during and after they were homeless. They lived a life of daily fighting for survival for food, clothing and shelter that ranged from two years up to 20 years for some of them."

Loss will speak at the Grand Island Memorial Library from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 28, as

part of a "local author event." Attendees can listen and learn, ask questions, and hear from one of the formerly homeless who appears in the book and was homeless off and on for 16 years. Loss' book can be purchased after the presentation or via Amazon.

The library is located at 1755 Bedell Road.

### 'Test, Tune, and Time' to start 64th season of racing at Ransomville Speedway

Drums of VP Race Fuels, Hoosier Tire giveaways, and free pit passes will be handed out to the front row of each division during Ransomville Speedway's "Test, Tune, and Time" on Friday, April 29. Drivers will be racing against the clock to see who will be on the front row of their division's feature on opening night, Friday, May 6, presented by VP Racing Small Engine Fuels.

The pole-sitter for the Krown Undercoating Modifieds and the Investor's Service Sportsman will receive a drum of VP Race Fuel, the "Official Fuel of the Big R." Drivers who clock in position No. 2 for both the Modifieds and Sportsman will receive a certificate good for one new tire courtesy of Hoosier Racing Tires.

The pole-sitter in the KiPo Motors Street Stocks will receive a race tire while the outside pole-sitter will receive a free pit entry. The front row for both the Sunflowers of Sanborn Mini Stocks and the Kevin's Carpet Cleaning Novice Sportsman will each receive a free pit entry.

Ransomville Speedway would like to thank both VP Race Fuels and Hoosier Racing Tires for their continued support of racing at not only the Big R but in their continued partnerships with World Racing Group and DIRTcar Northeast.

Marketing opportunities are still available for the 2022 racing season by contacting the speedway office at 716-791-3602 or by email at raceransomville@gmail.com. More information is available by going to www.ransomvillespeedway.com.

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