



De's Dazzles - It's Our 12th Birthday!

Thanks to the Corning community, I-Jobs grant and various smaller grants who gave generously and believed in our restoration in 2011-12. Part of the I-Jobs grant guidelines were to have an event within 18 months of receiving the money or forfeit the grant dollars. Bravely on April 5 & 6, with no theatrical lighting or sound system installed, we forged ahead with the Ron Cooley Trio featuring Jeff Millhollin. The trio made up of Mannheim Steamroller musicians and Jeff's original songs gave a magnificent performance! Volunteers worked tirelessly to open on time with wine, hor'doeuvres, and ribbon cutting for the two sold-out performances! June of 2012 we officially opened with performances by Christopher the Conquered and Elizabeth Aarynn followed by the premiere of the movie The Last Ride about Hank Williams. The dream was BIG! And we had *no idea* what we were getting ourselves into.

Except for covid years, we have averaged over 200 events per year from baby or bridal showers, weddings to funerals, local to regional business meetings, organizations & churches, birthday parties to class reunions, musicals, plays, concerts, speakers, classes, tours, and the list goes on! Time keeps marching on, seasons change & so does the community & the dream! We have had conversations with various agents and people about some different avenues to seek going forward. One area is a film festival! If you'd like to help with the planning, give us a shout!

As with every birthday, we age and change. This building is now 123 years old and requires a lot of upkeep! On the outside, we have seal coated the roof, replaced windows, tuck pointed, painted, and soon repairs will begin on our gutters/fascia! On the inside of the building, our most recent were to purchase a new sound board with Adams Community Foundation grant dollars and soon to be adding a cyclorama curtain in honor of John & Mary Lenz family.

Our story is a real page turner, a showstopper with the chances we've taken, the people we've met, the hassles that stretched us and the battles that strengthened us. From the local musicians to the America's Got Talent winners, to the Branson performers, to the tribute bands, to the guest speakers, to the authors and more, each encounter left a lasting mark. We will continue to write our story; the possibilities seem endless and the adventures limitless! As Harriet Tubman once said, "Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." Here's to many more birthdays!

Sincerely,
De Heaton
Executive Director
4/1/24