



Weekly News

Tremont Library Activities

Follow us on Facebook or visit our website, [At Home with Tremont Library](#), to see what online services we offer. Our collection of e-books are available 24/7.

At Home Bingo

Patrons of all ages are invited to play [At Home Bingo](#) with us!

Online Adult Programming

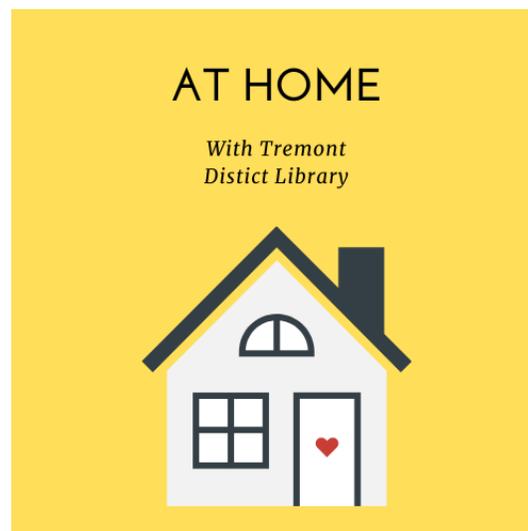
[Watercolors for Fun and Relaxation](#) with Director Maria.

[Rock Dot Painting](#) with Director Maria

Online Children's Programming

Maker Mondays: Make a craft each Monday with Miss Nicole! [Visit Facebook](#).

[Join our Read-Aloud Facebook group](#) to enjoy read-aloud picture books by Youth Director Lizzi and the Tremont Librarians! New posts on Wednesdays and Fridays.



Did you know...?

Part 3: The Columbia Opera House in Decline

Far from its heyday of stage shows, grand balls, ceremonies and sporting events, the old opera house sat neglected for many decades. For about four or five decades before that, the opera house was at the heart of Tremont.

What caused it to be abandoned is a mystery. Was it a sudden event or issue? Poor management? Or just the slow process of change in lifestyle? Maybe one day we will be able to find information to help us

understand. By about the 1940s, some tiny apartments were built in parts of the once-grand space. Several couples started their married lives there.

The three magnificent brass and crystal chandeliers disappeared at some point. Were they taken down for repair? For safety? For safekeeping? For whatever reason, they disappeared leaving only the domed areas in the ceiling from which they once hung.

The stage is still there today as is the balcony seating area in the back. Several years ago, some Tremont men went in and salvaged what they could – a row of wooden seating is in the Tremont Museum now complete with wire top hat holders on the underside of the seats. They took pictures of the proscenium arch, which inspire the imagination, almost allowing a glimpse of the beauty of the place when it was new. Hand-blown lightbulbs used to line the arch – a few of which are on display at the museum, as well as an 1899 grand opening ball ticket and program and posters of various events through the years.

A tradition in the theatre world is for actors to sign the fire wall behind the stage after a production. Sure enough, even today the old fire wall stands. It is complete with signatures from the many, many actors who performed there, including the later-to-be-famous Everett Dirksen, who was part of a minstrel troop there as a young man.

Standing in the opera house space, one cannot help but imagine all the stories it could tell. No interior photos are known of at this time.

Today, the space is once again useful after many years of vacancy. Janet Weyeneth, owner of Louisa Jane, Inc., has her home décor consulting business in the old opera house space over Perdue's Grill. There, she has a lovely office and uses the main part of the still rough "ball room" space to array samples of materials used in her services.

Many people over the years have dreamed of restoring the space to its former grandeur. We can always hope...

~Tremont Museum and Historical Society



Decorative molded tin on arch over the stage. Photo taken during salvaging by Don Nieu Kirk

Tremont Museum

All meetings, events, and activities at the Tremont Museum are cancelled or postponed until further notice. Please plan to visit once it is determined to be safe to do so.

* This section will continue to provide suggestions for 'at-home' activities.

Monday

Send messages to your friends and relatives with your favorite memories with them.

Tuesday

Find all the lids to the Tupperware.

Wednesday

Write poetry. Perhaps you can craft a haiku for Mother's Day, or something without a specific structure.

Thursday

Play this fun game with your kids (or spouse): Let's Clean the Bathroom!

Friday

Update your resume.

Around Town



Please send us your news stories and they will be included in upcoming emails. Deadline to include information is Friday, 6:00PM for the following Monday.

We accept information from official Tremont, IL businesses, organizations, and advertisers. We will also post Public Auctions and Open Houses.

Thank you,

Haas IT Solutions, Inc. on behalf of Tremont Winning Communities

Tremont Winning Communities | info@tremontil.com | <http://tremontil.com>