HOW TO STREAMLINE YOUR TOUR NOTES!

**LOBBY:**
- In honor of Anne Wittig (pastel pictured frame)
- Solom Beman - architect
- Frederic Winthrop Ramsdell – painted lunettes

**THEATRE:**
- Fire burnt down Scandinavian Opera House on corner of 1st street and Greenbush, community cried for a place for entertainment
- T.J. Ramsdell, Solon Beman, Frederick Winthrop Ramsdell - $100k investment
- Act curtain by Walter Wilcox Burridge (Wizard of Oz Chicago sets)
- *A Chinese Honeymoon,* Sep 4, 1903 *(first performance)*
- They averaged 40 shows a year; very popular venue for professional touring groups
- 1917 – T.J. died – lawyers recommended tearing down building
- 1918 - Theatre dark *(cause was WWI)*
- 1923 - Rotary bought it for $25k. Eventually turned it over to the city
- 1939 – MCP formed and was active until WWII began. They started back up in 1952
- 1950s – Dr. Madge Skelly ran the Manistee Drama Festival (summer)
  - James Earl Jones participated in this program
  - Named tower in honor of Madge Skelly
- Ramsdell Theatre Restoration Project
  - Dome & act curtain restored in 2000
  - Box seats plus 487 other sponsored seats
  - Light fixtures – original

**STAGE:**
- 60’ deep x 38’ wide x 80’ high with 1 elevated section, 2 trap doors (one off stage left)
- 29 line sets
- Dressing rooms/make-up downstairs
- Pin rail
- Paint rail

**THOMAS WALTER HARDY HALL:**
- 1916-1985 - Owned Hardy Salt plant in St. Louis
  - Started as Salesman for Morton salt
  - 1930 – bought land to build a salt supplier plant in Manistee
  - Head sculpture in Hardy Hall
  - Original desk belonged to Mr. Hardy
- Over the Hill Gang restored pillars
- Original flooring
- Marion Owczarski (“Ousharski”) was commissioned by local supporter, Sharon Switalski
  - Donated in 1997

**HARDY HALL LOBBY:**
- Ramsdell and Rotary (etched Rs)
- Portrait of James Earl Jones (“Todd Jones”)
- Recently installed carpet like original
- Bill Hattendorf and John Bell restored the sculptures in the Hardy Hall, which were originally donated by the Picardat family

**BALLROOM:**
- For after drama galas (show secret door)
- Ballet, with orchestra in the top balcony
- Then used as Armory, MRA (basketball, roller skating, dances), Now proms, receptions...
- No elevator or kitchen facilities originally

**BEFORE RETURNING TO LOBBY:**
- Basement is storage, restrooms, rehearsal space, mechanicals, classrooms
- Dominic Naffie – played Fiddler on the Roof for three decades
- Donor plaques near elevator

If they wish to make a donation, or pay their tour with a check write it out to Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts