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## Raue Center marks 10th

The gem that is the Raue Center for the Arts in downtown Crystal Lake is celebrating a milestone year.

It's the Raue's 10th anniversary, and a hearty congratulations is in order. Some have been around long enough to remember when a group of local leaders and arts enthusiasts set out to establish the Raue.

This group did a stellar job of restoring the regional showcase theater that first opened in 1929 as El Tovar. It now is named for benefactor Lucile Raue, whose estate left more than \$1 million to buy the building and go toward renovations. According to [www.rauecenter.org](http://www.rauecenter.org), another \$500,000 was given in matching incentives.

Since its restoration, the Raue has been home to 10 seasons of entertainment ranging from bigger names like Arlo Guthrie, Lily Tomlin and the Lt. Dan Band (featuring actor and musician Gary Sinise) to lesser known, local performing groups.

It's been a place to enjoy, support and inspire some great live talent.

It's also a place, like many, that has found it more difficult in recent years to stay in the black.

If you've never visited the Raue Center, you don't know what you're missing, and we encourage you to check [rauecenter.org](http://rauecenter.org) for an upcoming event that suits your tastes. It's likely you'll find more than one.

It's also likely you'll find something to suit your pocketbook. Tickets for Lucy's Café performances, for example, are \$20 in advance. When you consider what you'd spend for a night out most anywhere and factor in the unique surroundings you'll enjoy, it's a bargain.

Raue Center is at 26 N. Williams St., Crystal Lake. This Saturday, a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament starting at 6:30 p.m. will raise money for the Raue's Rock the Raue 10th anniversary fundraising campaign. The buy-in is \$100.

You can learn more about it at the website, or by calling 815-356-9212.

If cards isn't your thing, consider checking out an upcoming performance.

Funny thing about local gems. So often we say to ourselves "Oh, yes, I've been wanting to go there." But if we wait too long, we could lose the option.

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