

The Kaleva Historical Society Newsletter

April, 2021

[Http://www.kalevamichigan.com](http://www.kalevamichigan.com)

Greetings from the Kaleva Historical Society

Letter from the President —

Dear Members of the Kaleva Historical Society,

The past year has been as unusual here in Kaleva as in other places because of the Covid 19 pandemic. Fortunately we were able to open the Bottle House Museum for the season but only on Saturdays. We still had many enthusiastic visitors who were happy to follow precautions to keep everyone safe. Our board of directors changed faces as we lost several long serving members. We are thankful to welcome new directors: Margaret Johnson, Pam Bagley, Georgia Brown, Alin Kuuttila and Kris Flaherty.

Our major accomplishment this winter was the complete renovation of the basement of the Bottle House. Many thanks to Robert Ramirez who spent many hours removing items, painting the walls and rearranging the displays. His talent and care in doing this has made a huge improvement. We now have neatly organized sections of household items, hand tools, shoemaker equipment, logging and farming objects and other items of interest. The biggest change is the improved lighting and defined space that makes for a much more enjoyable viewing of these artifacts. We hope you can come and see for yourself!

Another change is in the office area. The family history boxes are now in a more accessible place on shelves near the door of the office. We hope folks will want to look in the folders to see what information is there about their family. This may encourage people to bring in family photographs or other artifacts that can be accessed by others. We often have inquiries about past generations and by looking in the family folders we can sometimes help answer questions. Another help is the Kuku Kuoli reference book compiled by Richard Asiala from the Lutheran Church records. "Who Died?" is so named because Richard remembered when the church bells rang many times, the townsfolk would ask that question. This book is a listing of all persons who were buried through the church from early 1900 through 2010. When possible Richard included where they came from and when they came to Kaleva as well as birth and death dates.



New "look" in the Bottlehouse basement.

Again we are asking for your support of the Bottle House museum. Dues and donations are used to insure the museum continues in the preservation of Kaleva's history and culture. With your help we maintain the Depot Railroad Museum, the Log Cabin Theater, the Sculpture Walkway and support the work of the Kaleva Beautification Team. Thank you!

Cynthia Asiala, president



2021 KHS Board Members

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Cynthia Asiala | Kris Flaherty |
| Sandy Asiala | Margaret Johnson |
| Pam Bagley | Alin Kuuttila |
| Georgia Brown | Dennis Risser |

Kalevala Glass Mosaics added to Sculpture Walkway

The first glass mosaic by Tricia Boucha was unveiled on Kaleva's Centennial Walkway on September 26, 2020. This is the first of three reproductions of the Kalevala murals that the artist is gifting to the community. The Kaleva Historical Society is excited to announce the other two panels are scheduled to be installed this spring. Plans are being made for a dedication and celebration on Saturday, May 29 at 4:00 pm on the south side of the Centennial Walkway. A grant from the Manistee County Community Foundation helped make the mosaic project possible.

The original Kalevala murals are located in the back entrance of the Bottle House Museum. They were painted during the Depression by young people in the National Youth Administration (a New Deal agency) under the direction of artist Harry Armstrong. The six murals depicting scenes from the Finnish epic poem, the Kalevala, were dedicated in September 1940 with a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the town.



Support Local Businesses!

The Kaleva Historical Society has been a member of the Kaleva Art Gallery since the beginning. Not only do we support local artists but it gives us the opportunity to sell Kaleva t-shirts and other memorabilia. Check it out! See photos on the Kaleva Art Gallery facebook page.

Kaleva Art Gallery Open Hours:

Friday: Noon to 4pm

Saturday: 10am to 4pm

Winter Solstice—Kaleva's Luminary Tradition

We as a community celebrate the Finnish tradition of lighting candles for those who have passed by placing luminaries next to each grave in the [Maple Grove Township Cemetery](#) in the village of Kaleva on December 21st at 4pm. Candles remain lit until late in the evening providing a beautiful scene for all to enjoy. This event is reminiscent of the Finnish tradition of lighting candles on Christmas Eve for fallen friends or family. Following the lighting, people gather by the fire for a prayer and Christmas carols.

Many thanks to our 2020 concert sponsors. These concerts would not be possible without you!

Platinum + : Blue Water Transportation, Environmental Recycling

Platinum: Melvin & Beverly Fennell, Finan Steamer Service, Fruit Haven-Lutz Farms, Kaleva Telephone, mBank, Robak's Kaleva Tavern, Somsel Lumber Company, Terwilliger Funeral Home.

Silver: Countryside Restaurant, Grossnickle Family Trust, Kaleva Barber Shop, Kaleva Country Flowers, Larry's Party Store, Mark Quinn-Attorney.

Memorials: Laura Asiala in memory of Michael, Richard, Charles, John T. and Dennis.

Special thanks to also to the businesses that support our Depot Museum Operations: Cherryland Rural Electric, Fruithaven-Lutz Farms, Kaleva Telephone, mBank, Northern MI Dragway, Terwilliger Funeral Home.



KHS MUSEUMS OPEN FOR SEASON — MEMORIAL DAY WEEK-END

Bottle House Museum:

Sat : 12 —4 pm

Memorial Day —Oct

Depot Museum:

Sat 12 —4 pm

Memorial Day—Labor Day

