The Kaleva Historical Society Newsletter

May, 2019

Http://www.kalevami.com

Greetings from the Kaleva Historical Society

Letter from the President —

Dear members of the Kaleva Historical Society,

This year is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Kaleva Historical Society!

In a letter to the Michigan Historical Commission dated August 14, 1969, Eva Densmore, president, quotes article two of the articles of incorporation summarizing the purpose of the museum:

To perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women whose sacrifices and unselfish service to their fellow men and the community nourished the development of the Village of Kaleva and the surrounding area.

To encourage historical research into the earliest records of Kaleva, and to encourage the publication of records of individual service and matters of historic interest.

To secure and hallow historic spots by erecting monuments thereon, and to cherish and preserve the history of Kaleva as achieved and established by the original settlers and founders.

To collect and suitably store and preserve data, material and objects having historical significance so that they shall be best available for public inspection and instruction and for the benefit of the community.

If you have visited the Bottle House Museum during its 50 year history I think you would find that the intent of the founders has been realized. More than 500 visitors each summer come into the museum and find the displays and items of such interest that they spend quite a bit of time there.



Photo above shows Aura Street looking toward the business district!

Many more stop by to photograph the artistic display of bottles that make up the exterior of the home. We are proud that we have been able to sustain the original founders vision. Please watch for further news about our 50th year celebration

Sincerely,

Cindy Asiala, President; Deanna Draze, vice president; Ruth Asiala, secretary; Sandra Asiala, treasurer; Laura Dorn, Doreen Yonkman, Dennis Risser, trustees.

Bottle House Museum Hours:

Memorial Day — Labor Day Sat & Sun: Noon—4pm September — October Saturday only: Noon—4pm

Depot Museum:

Memorial Day — **Labor Day** Saturday only: Noon— 4pm

How did the Kaleva Historical Society begin?

The following was found in the archives: "Since 1969 when the Kaleva Historical Society was chartered, great strides have been make in reaching their goals. ..For eleven years (its) the museum was ensconced in two rooms of the community building (formerly the Dorn School). Because more and more articles were donated by interested people, conditions became overcrowded, thus making the Society aware of the urgent need for a new building...."

The article goes on to tell how in 1979 the board found out the John J. Makinen Bottle House was up for sale. A community fund-raising drive was begun and the house was purchased the next year. There are 92 persons listed as charter members, a veritable who's who of Finnish descent. We know of only two, Virginia Beldo and Ken Kuuttila. who are still with us.

We are fortunate in that the house constructed of 60,000 bottles draws people to Kaleva and to the museum. We are also grateful for dedicated past board members like Lempi Ahlskog, Harold and Velma Bigelow, M.A. and Doris Gustafson, Matt Hakala, Robert Grant, Martha Lehto, Jack Luhtanen, Doreen Harju, Liivi Wiittala, and Brian Smith. We also thank the many community members that saw the need for the Kaleva Historical Society and supported the purchase of the Bottle House. Finally, we thank the current members who faithfully contribute each year so the famous Bottle House Museum is able to continue to carry out the purpose for which it was started 50 years ago. We hope you can stop by during this 50th year celebration!!

Kaleva Historical Society Milestones:

KHS established at former Dorn school 1969



Log Cabin Music Theater established. 2000



Makinen Tackle Room established 2008



KHS purchases Makinen Bottle House 1980



Centennial Sculpture Walkway established 2000



New village entrance signs 2013



Kaleva Depot Restored 1998



Kaleva Beautification Team established 2010



Authentic Finnish Sauna built 2018



Kaleva Concerts! We hope to see you at our August Friday night concerts at our log cabin stage. Watch our website (kalevami.com) for details of upcoming musicians.



Many thanks to our 2018 concert sponsors. These concerts would not be possible without you!

Laura Asiala, Blue Water Transportation, Environmental Recycling, mBank, Kaleva Telephone, Robaks Kaleva Tavern, Grossnickle Family Trust, Finan Steamer Service Terwilliger Funeral Home, Trak's Bar and Grill, Somsel Lumber Co., Kaleva Barber Shop, Larry's Party Store, Countryside Restaurant, Mark Quinn, attorney

Great thanks to the sponsors that enable us to keep our historic depot open summer Saturdays.

- * Kaleva Telephone
- * Terwilliger Funeral Home
- Cherryland Electric
- Kaleva Country Flowers
- Northern Michigan Dragway
- Fruit Haven Lutz Farms

Kaleva Historical Fociety 14551 Wuoksi Ave., Box 252 Kaleva, M9 49645

Business (or) Family Patron	19 dues level desired: . each =\$ y\$ 25\$ 50\$100.	The Kaleva Historical Society depends entirely on dues and donations for museum operations. The KHS is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. You will receive a receipt indicating the amount of your donation and that you did not receive any goods of value
n addition to your annual dues, your on the following specific funds: Museum operations & eventher of the Kaleva Beautification Teation Total Contribution	ents\$ in fund contributions) \$	for your donation. ! Please indicate your additional support
Business [or] Name Mailing address Email address		
	(email addresses will help us save postagewe wi	Il not share these addresses)