

The Kaleva Historical Society Newsletter

April, 2023

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

Greetings from the Kaleva Historical Society

Letter from the President —

Dear Kaleva Supporters,

I usually address this note to Kaleva Historical Society members. However, there are many Kaleva supporters who do not belong to the Historical Society. There is interest in being more inclusive and collaborative. For example, the Village and KHS are producing a new brochure promoting Kaleva. The township, village and KHS decorated the boulevard trees with Christmas lights this year. And of course, the new Maple Grove Township Community Center has brought government and community together. Look inside this newsletter for description of the exciting events happening there.

With all that activity, the Bottle House was very busy as well, open on Saturdays from 12-4pm Memorial Day weekend through Christmas. The docents report how much visitors enjoy the museum exhibits as they reminisce about days gone by. The Makinen tackle collection is a favorite display, as it contains all the lures made in



Kaleva in the 1950's. People always enjoy looking for relatives in the Senior picture frames in the School Room. Some folks find information about relatives in our

family folders too. Most people have a story to tell about their connection to the area.

The Depot Railroad Museum was open Saturdays during the summer, staffed by Robert Ramirez, who lovingly cares for the building and artifacts. A successful Log Cabin concert season was again sponsored by our generous local sponsors, as was the maintenance of the Depot.

There is momentum to bring activity to the former downtown, as the post office is the only business remaining besides the Art Gallery. The consensus is that use of the buildings must be reinvented, possibly with an emphasis on historical preservation. The Allen building would



make a fine coffee/tea shop. The bank is now privately owned and has historical descriptions posted on and around it. Many remember it was 90 years ago that the bank was robbed, and the first cross county police chase resulted in arrest of the robbers. The first bank in Kaleva located across the street from the former mBank was renovated last fall and various uses for it are being discussed.

Cynthia Asiala, President

KHS MUSEUMS OPEN FOR SEASON

Bottle House Museum:

Sat : 12 —4 pm Memorial Day —Christmas

Depot Museum:

Sat 12 —4 pm Memorial Day—Labor Day

Special thanks to also to the businesses that support our Depot Museum Operations: Cherryland Rural Electric, Filer Credit Union, Kaleva Telephone, Northern MI Dragway, Terwilliger Funeral Home.

2023 KHS Board Members

Cynthia Asiala	Kris Flaherty
Sandy Asiala	Margaret Johnson
Pam Bagley	Alin Kuuttila
Georgia Brown	Dennis Risser
Beverly Fennell	

25th Anniversary of The Kaleva Art Gallery

2022 marked the 25th anniversary of the Kaleva Art Gallery with over 80 people visiting and shopping on a Saturday in December. There was a student art show, an historical display of the gallery's found-



ing by the Brethren High School Service Learning class, and refreshments. Since the village moved to the Community Center the gallery was able to expand into that space, adding more area for displays.

There are also a record number of artists involved in the gallery. Everyone wishes for another successful 25 years!



Maple Grove Community Center is Thriving Community Gathering Place



The success of the new community center in the former Kaleva Elementary School is an example of how collaboration and sharing of resources benefits and strengthens a community. The Kaleva Historical Society feels fortunate to have such a great neighbor that benefits all. There's a coffee room, an exercise room, an art room, rooms for teaching classes, a State Police detachment, and rooms for rent. There are many events happening at the CC: walking, pickle ball, sewing, art classes, Senior Meals, Food Pantry, Smart Trail meetings, Arts and Culture Alliance meetings, as well as government meetings. There is a possibility there will be childcare, summer camps, and cooking classes soon. This year a newly renovated kitchen was a shining achievement,



Christmas in Kaleva. Each year, the KHS decorates the Bottle House with a Christmas Tree, wreaths, a Finnish Heaven, and outdoor nativity scene. Hot chocolate and cookies were served when we "Lit up the town." Another Saturday, free ornaments were distributed to visitors. Of course the "Taste of Finland," was a popular event, with more food than was possible to sample—although most tried!



Lighting Up the Longest Night!



On December 21, there were 1000 luminaries placed on the graves in the Maple Grove Cemetery. The Brethren girls' basketball team was a great help as were the other folks that turned out to light up the longest night. In Finland, the tradition is to visit the departed on Christmas eve. Since 1996, the Historical Society has sponsored this popular event on the Winter Solstice. Seeing the cemetery bathed in the light of 1000 candles is a sight to be remembered. The candles have become more expensive and the dues page has opportunity for contributions.



Log Cabin Concert Schedule Fridays in August 7pm

- *August 4—Ruth and Max*
- *August 11—Barefoot*
- *August 18—Mary Sue and Mark*
- *August 25—Truckdriver Bingo*

**Find more local art and entertainment information :
allartsmanistee.com*



2021 Sponsors: Blue Water Transportation (Jon Asiala), Countryside Restaurant, Environmental Services (Paul Cottrell), Melvin & Beverly Fennell, Finan Services, Kaleva Barber Shop, Kaleva Country Flowers, Kaleva Telephone, Mark Quinn-Attorney, Kaleva Tavern, Somsel Lumber Company, Terwilliger Funeral Home, . **Memorials:** Laura and Kay Asiala in memory of Michael, Richard, Charles, John T, and Dennis Asiala.

Kaleva Historical Society
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This photo is a copy of an 1908 event to honor Civil War veterans in Kaleva. Marvin Laaksonen gave it to the KHS. His dad told him it was the first time he saw motorized State Police detachment vehicles. The original Kaleva Bank is shown near the center of the photo. This building is next to where the current post office stands today. Maple Grove Township owns this building and preservation work is now being done.

Please put an X in front of the 2023 dues level desired:

____ Individual (s) @ \$15. each =\$_____

 Business (or) Family\$ 25.

_____ Patron.....\$ 50.

_____ Friend \$100.

_____ Benefactor.....\$200.

Total Dues Paid.....

The Kaleva Historical Society depends entirely on dues and donations for museum operations. We appreciate your contributions to preserve the history of this remarkable community.

In addition to your annual dues, your contribution to designated funds is encouraged! Please indicate your additional support to the following specific funds:

Museum operations & events..... \$_____

Kaleva Beautification Team..... \$_____

Candles for Cemetery Lighting..... \$_____

Historic Preservation..... \$_____

Total Contribution (Total dues + Total designated funds contributions)

.....\$_____

Member or Business Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

(email addresses will help us save postage....we will not share these addresses.

The KHS is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Do you need a receipt indicating the amount of your donation and that you did not receive any goods of value for your donation?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to volunteer at the Bottle House on Saturdays ?

If yes, how can you be reached?