

The Kaleva Historical Society Newsletter

May, 2020

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

Greetings from the Kaleva Historical Society

Letter from the President —

It is that time of year again when we contact our faithful members and ask for support in maintaining the Bottle House museum and carrying on the legacy of the Kaleva Historical Society. We move into our next half century hopeful of continuing success in management and programming.

Last year several projects were completed: The front porch foundation was “shored up” to prevent further sinking; landscaping on the north side of the museum was redone; the front porch cement floor and front steps were finished with a non-skid coating; and displays were re-arranged to create more of an old fashioned “front porch” feeling.

We again welcomed many visitors on Saturdays and Sundays thanks to our faithful docents.

The Depot Railroad Museum experienced more visitors than usual including a bus tour that followed the old railroad trails from Benzonia to Kaleva.

Our website was re-designed and much more historical information is now available. Please visit <kalevami.com> and find the many projects and documents there. Look for articles about the Kaleva School, bios of honorees on the Sculpture Tree, KND's Service Learning Class, and much more. It is worth the time it takes to look through the many “layers” of the site.

Finally, the winter solstice lighting of the cemetery was one of the best thanks to perfect weather, plenty of enthusiastic help and the support of the community. Over 1000 candles were placed on the graves in the township cemetery. It is a sight that one must behold to believe. If you didn't get there this year, we'll do it again on December 21, 2020.

Projects we have planned for this year include: Re-finishing the back porch floor and steps; and re-arranging the basement and finishing that cement floor.



Photo above shows work being done to restore porch foundation summer 2019.

Artist Tricia Bouche recently moved to Kaleva and offered to create our next sculpture for the Centennial Walkway. It will be a series of three of the murals that were part of the 1940 NYC project in Manistee County. She is re-creating them in colored glass, and they will form a triangle, lighted from within, and be placed on the south end of the Centennial Walkway. It should be spectacular! Thank you to Tricia who is donating her work to the community she praises for the artistic opportunities she has found here.

Thank you for your support of the Kaleva Historical Society. We couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely,

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

Bottle House Museum Hours:

Memorial Day — Oct 31
Saturdays : Noon—4pm

Depot Museum:

Memorial Day — Labor Day
Saturdays : Noon—4pm

Kalevala Murals on the Centennial Walkway!

The Kaleva Centennial Walkway was created by the KND Service Learning Class in 1999. This walkway takes you by gardens and unique sculptures. The KHS is now beginning the next installment: a lighted 3-sided glass mosaic mural depicting scenes from the Kalevala—Finland's famous epic poem after which the village is named. Each of the panels will be approximately 3' by 5' and mounted in a metal frame. A nationally recognized artist, Tricia Boucha, will be the lead artist. Tricia will be engaging local residents in completing these murals. Here is a chance to become involved. Watch our website for more information.



Relax on our front porch—and learn something too!



The Kaleva Historical Society now has a place to relax and research your family's history. Or maybe you are new to the village and would like to learn more about its heritage. Due the recent necessary floor repair, we decided to make the Bottle House porch an inviting space. Here you will find a display honoring the military service of

Kaleva residents (past and present). There are many family histories, stories and photos. Enjoy browsing through scrapbooks and photo albums of Kaleva's Centennial and major events. If you cannot find what you are looking for here, you will find many more resources on the bookshelves in the museum office. The docent may be able to help you.

KHS Pandemic Response

The KHS wants everyone to be safe. Because of our uncertain times during this Covid19 pandemic, we will be open only Saturdays this year. Everyone is asked to wear a protective mask. To honor social-distancing, a limited number of people will be allowed inside at one time. Thank-you for your understanding. We hope all to be back strong in 2021.

The Finnish Loom

When the Finns immigrated to northern Michigan, they of course brought their crafts and culture with them. A craft that was an important part of their life, was weaving rag rugs. Most homes had a large floor loom or access to one where they could weave rugs using old clothes or used fabric torn into strips. Traditional Finnish rag rugs were often useful, beautiful and strong. They were utilitarian, functioning not as decorative wall hangings but as everyday floor coverings that were placed on thresholds or in living rooms, kitchens, and bedrooms to protect or warm the floors of the house.



The loom, recently installed in the back porch of the Bottle House Museum, was recently donated by Cindy Asiala. She has woven many rugs over the years for her home and extended family. She has also sold rugs at the Kaleva Art Gallery.

The loom originally belonged to the Tuisku family of Kaleva.

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