

The Kaleva Historical Society Newsletter

April, 2017

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

Greetings from the Kaleva Historical Society

Letter from the President —

Dear Kaleva Historical Society members,

We had another successful year at the Bottle House Museum and other venues and activities supported by the Kaleva Historical Society. The museum hosted guests from all over the state and from as far away as Finland. We only hear compliments about their experience when visiting. A new display about the Brethren High School Service Learning class was assembled in the front room. The students began work in Kaleva 20 years ago when they interviewed elders about how the town used to be. From there goals of bringing economic development and reviving the Finnish culture were put into action in each of the projects: the Art Gallery, the Depot, the Log Cabin, the sculptures, the Centennial Walkway and many other accomplishments are pictured and described in the display.

Our new project is to construct a traditional Finnish sauna in the backyard of the Bottle House. We have received almost \$1500 from the last two years' dues letters, and we received a \$2600 grant from the Finlandia Foundation. We are encouraged since we are almost half-way to our goal. A local Finn has helped plan the design and a local builder will be contracted for building the sauna. We hope to have the ground-breaking on Juhannus weekend

Don't forget the Bottle House during Kaleva Days! On Saturday, July 15 (at 10 am) there will be a bake sale to give you a chance to sample those famous Kaleva treats such as nissua bread.

a perfect time to have a festive celebration! (see last page if you would like to contribute).

As you know, our main support comes from our dues-paying members. This money is used for maintenance and upkeep of the Bottle House and grounds. Profits from the Finnish Line Walk/Run help staff the Depot, and donations from local businesses and individuals support the concerts at the Log Cabin Theater. We are very grateful for all these resources. A sincere thank you to our docents who staff the museum in the summer and fall. Finally our board members deserve recognition for their service: Deanna Draze, Dennis Risser, Doreen Yonkman, Laura Dorn, Sandra Asiala, and Cindy Asiala.

Again we want to thank everyone who contributes to our efforts to make Kaleva a great place to live and visit.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Asiala, president



Our new sauna will look similar to this photo.

William Makinen added to Sculpture at the Centennial Walkway



In 2016, the Kaleva Historical Society added William (Bill) Makinen's name to our sculpture tree that honors past Kaleva businessmen involved in community service. On August 26, we held a celebration at the sculpture walkway to dedicate the plaque. Bill's daughter, Doreen Yonkman, read a story of her father's leadership in the community.

At a young age Bill was whittling his own fishing plugs on the family farm north of Kaleva on Makinen road. He tested them out on a lake across from the farm to see how fish reacted to different shapes and colors. Around 1933, he was in the wholesale beverage business and running a mink ranch. However, by 1939, Bill decided he should put his knowledge of what kinds of baits attracted fish into a tangible business and he called it Makinen Tackle Company.

By 1940, employees were making wooden fishing bodies in the garage behind his home. They were painted and assembled in the basement of their home! The new enterprise provided income for many people from Kaleva and surrounding areas. Many people took baits home to sandpaper them down to a smooth finish in their leisure time. The early baits were made of cedar, poplar and basswood.

By 1945, the business had grown to 14 employees. A new building was built and 57 workers were working in Makinen's backyard! In 1946, a large new plant was constructed on Nine Mile Rd in Kaleva, which then housed the business. Eventually, nearly 100 people were employed in the plant. The building is there yet today. In the 1950's, the tackle business was sold to Heddon Fishing Tackle Company in Dowagiac, Michigan. Mr. Makinen then formed a new business called Mak-Craft Creations that featured furniture and wildlife themed table lamps. If you would like to know more about the history of these companies and see examples of every lure ever produced by the company, please visit the Kaleva Bottle House Museum.



Kaleva Finnish Line. The profits from the Kaleva Finnish Line enable us to staff the Kaleva Depot Museum.

Thank-you to our generous sponsors that make this possible (Cherryland Electric, Northern MI Dragway, Terwilliger's Funeral Home, Fruit Haven/Lutz Farms, Kaleva Telephone Company, Finan Steamer Service). Please join us for this year's 5K race on Sat-July 15. Please find a registration form on our website: www.kalevami.com.

Technology Support Needed!

Are you interested in helping the Historical Society maintain their website? Our website is hosted by Go Daddy but we need someone to do monthly updates and formatting. This is something you can do from wherever you live. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact: [deanna.draze@gmail.com].

2017 Log Cabin Concerts

August 4 The Nephews August 18 Awesome Distraction
August 11 Ingemar and Lisa August 26 Mary Sue

Many thanks to our 2016 concert sponsors. These concerts would not be possible without you! Blue Water Transportation, Environmental Energy, FruitHaven/Lutz Farms, Finan Steamer Services, Grossnickle Family Trust, Trak's Bar & Grill, mBank of Kaleva, Robak's Kaleva Tavern, Kaleva Telephone Co, Somsel Lumber Co., Terwilliger Funeral Home, Kaleva Barber Shop, Larry's Party Store, Country Side Restaurant, Fischer Tanks, Kaleva Meats, Mark Quinn-attorney, and the Laura Asiala Family in memory of Richard and Michael Asiala and in honor of Kay Asiala. Special recognition was given in memory of Arthur Hulkonen, founding member of the Log Cabin Committee.

KHS MUSEUMS OPEN FOR SEASON —MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

**Bottle House Museum:
Sat & Sun 12 —4 pm**

**Depot Museum:
Sat 12 —4 pm**

What's New?

Our little gift shop will have new stock that will include both Bottle House & Makinen Tackle shirts; Bottle House Mugs, Finnish heritage books; Kaleva SISU and grasshopper hats, Kaleva Cards by Ginny M as well as other items. Come and See!

