KALEVA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March 2025 | www.kalevamichigan.com

125 Years and Counting

Kaleva celebrates its *quasquicentennial* this year, meaning it has been 125 years since Finnish immigrants moved to the newly formed village called Kaleva, named after the famous epic poem, the Kalevala. As most of us know they were "lured" here by the Siirtolainen newspaper which promised land, described as fertile and cheap. It was actually cut-over stump land which they had purchased sight unseen on their way here. This is where "sisu", or guts, perserverence and determination kicked in as they strived to make a living however possible.

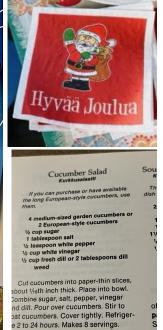
For those who want to know quasquicentennial is pronounced kwas-kwi-centennial, and in celebration of Kaleva's 125th birthday we will look into some current practices and customs:

One of the most popular events that the Historical Society celebrates is Christmas. From decorating the Bottle House with the Finnish Heaven, and tree with traditional ornaments to the sauna lit up like a gingerbread house and the old fashioned nativity scene, Christmas season is delightful. At the Taste of Finland, close to 100 people sampled treats from favorite Finnish recipes. At the Kaleva Marketplace event many visitors bought souvenir sweatshirts, mugs, and ornaments for holiday gift giving. On December 21, the longest night, the cemetery is lighted by over 1000 candles in paper bags which glow through the evening hours. This custom has been happening over 25 years and each year brings new and returning individuals and families to help put the luminaries on the graves.











Our long time maintenance person, Robert Ramirez, is instrumental in decorating for the season. This year he strung lights (which are recycles from Bay Area Recycling Center) on the sauna and the log cabin. He has the artist's touch as he can turn the sauna into a delightful gingerbread house and the 125 year old log cabin into an enchanting playhouse. Robert also keeps the Bottle House and grounds in good shape and is in charge of the Depot, open summer Saturdays 12-4. As always we thank the sponsors that help us keep the Depot running: Cherryland Electric, Northern MI Dragway, Kaleva Telephone, Terwilliger Funeral Home and Fruit Haven Lutz Farms. Thank you so much for your support!



The Kaleva Beautification team formed in 2008 with the idea of cleaning up Kaleva "one lot at a time". Blighted buildings were torn down, new welcome signs and signage for the historical sites were installed. Sculptures were added to the Centennial Walkway and gardens were updated. Flower barrels are planted in the summer and seasonal decorations are placed in the town throughout the year.





The Log Cabin committee arranges for the Friday night concerts in August each year. Generous individuals and businesses sponsor the musical groups the committee chooses.

This year the line-up is:

August 1-The Nephews

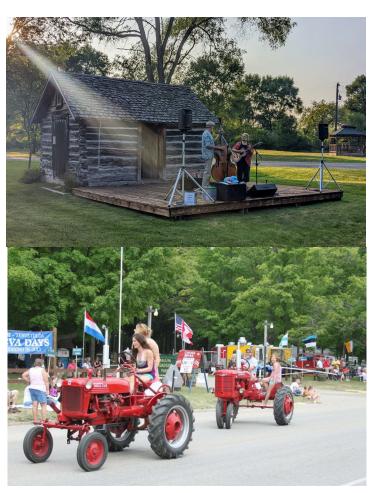
August 8-Ruth and Max

August 15-Mary Sue and Mark

August 22-Truck Driver Bingo

August 29-The Schrock Brothers.

Thank you to last year's sponsors: The Richard Asiala family: Kay, Dave & Ki, Kristen & Paul, Jon & Heather, Laura and 12 grandchildren in memory of Richard and Michael Asiala; Laura Asiala in memory of Richard, Michael, Chuck, John T and Dennis Asiala; Fruit Haven Lutz Farms in memory of Pete and Lorraine Lutz; Blue Water Transportation, Environmental Services, Kaleva Telephone, Terwilliger Funeral Home, Sandra Kingsley, Ken & Ellen Kuuttila, Melvin & Beverly Fennell, Homestead Timbers, Finan Services, Kaleva Barber Shop, Countryside Restaurant, Kaleva Country Flowers, Mark Quinn, attorney.



Upcoming dates to put on your calendars:

May 24: Bottle House open for the season: 12-4 pm Saturday & Sunday until Christmas

May 24: Depot Railroad Museum open Saturday 12-4 pm through Labor Day

July 19 & 20: Kaleva Heritage Days

Fridays in August: Concerts at the Log Cabin

Theater 7 pm

September 20: Cemetery Walk and Bonfire

at the Sauna

October 31: Halloween at the Bottle House

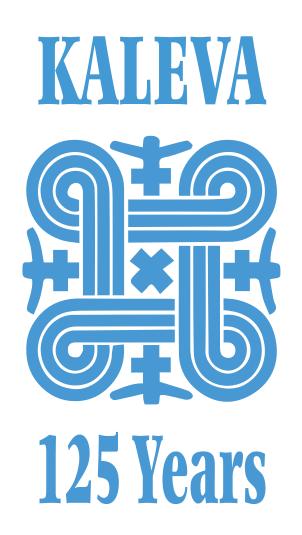
and Community Center

December 13: Kaleva Marketplace

December 20: Taste of Finland at the

Bottle House 12-4 pm

December 21: Luminaries in the Cemetery 4 pm



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



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

	office stands t	ollding is next to where the current post oday. Maple Grove Township owns this preservation work is now being done.
Please put an X in front of the 2025 dues level desired: Individual (s) @ \$15 each =	.\$	The Kaleva Historical Society depends entirely on dues and
Business (or) Family	\$25.	donations for museum operations. We appreciate your contributions to preserve the history of this remarkable community.
Patron	\$50	
Friend	\$100	
Benefactor	\$200	
Total Dues Paid\$\$		
In addition to your annual dues, your contribution to desig tional support to the following specifiec funds:	nated funds is e	encouraged! Please indicate your addi
Museum operations & events\$_		The KHS is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Do you
Kaleva Beautification Team\$_		need a receipt indicating the amount of your donation and that you did not receive any goods of value for your donation? □Yes □No
Candles for Cemetery Lighting\$_		
Historic Preservation\$_		
Total Contribution (Total dues + Total designated	I	
funds contributions\$_		
Manahay ay Durinasa Nana		
Member or Business Name		
Mailing Address		
Mailing Address		
Email Address (email addresses will help us save postagewe will no	ot share these add	resses.
Would you like to volunteer at the Bottle House on Saturda	ays?	

If yes, how can you be reached?