



WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

Volume 20, Issue 7, February 2022

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club is a member of APS #12293

www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com

Meeting Schedule: **See Below!!!!!!**

WILKPEX 2022 - Friday April 22nd 11 AM – 5 PM; Saturday April 23rd 10 AM – 4 PM – Holiday Park Fire Department, Plum PA.

WSC Meeting Schedule

We do not yet have a meeting schedule for February. Between the weather, Covid and Churchill Borough, things are up in the air. Check the website for updates. Next tentative dates will be February 13th and 27th. Keep working on your exhibits and Phlea Market materials for WILKPEX in April!

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club News

- Circuits – The club is still getting circuits and if you want to get involved please contact Danielle! Take a look! We also have circuits available at our meetings!
- Picnic 2022 – We will plan on having our annual picnic next summer. We will discuss plans and dates in early 2022.
- APS Visit – Danielle is hoping to take a road trip to APS sometime this spring. If you are interested call or email her so she can let you know the date!

Philatelic News

- The Mountain Flora stamps have had their release delayed from February 17th to March 14th due to a shortage of paper to make the double-sided booklets. The coils are ready. (Linn's Jan. 31st 2022)
- February US Stamps currently scheduled for release:
 - Butterfly Garden Flowers (Feb 1st) – 2 different designs - Non-Profit Organization coil.
 - Monument Valley (Feb. 14th) – \$8.95 Priority Mail
 - Palace of Fine Arts {San Francisco} (Feb. 14th) - \$26.95 Priority Mail



- The United Nations have announced their 2022 Stamp Program, which as of now includes Sport for Peace stamps honoring the 2022 Winter Olympics, Year of the Tiger, new Endangered Species stamps, The Planet Mars, more in the World heritage series, World Mental Health day, Cryptocurrency, the 70th Anniversary of Guided Tours of the UN in New York, and World Bicycle Day.



Member Information

- We are looking to get our membership records and contact info "up-to-date", so can you please send your current address, phone number and email address to Deb Foltyn? This is vital if you haven't been to a meeting in a while and/or have moved from the Pittsburgh area. **It is also key to contacting all members in case the meetings change!** You can also mail it to the club's PO Box.

Collector's Corner

- I love the way history comes alive through stamps and letters, and here's a story from CNN.com that illustrates why philately matters:

A letter from an American soldier has been delivered to his family - - 76 years after he mailed it

By Amanda Jackson, CNN, Updated 8:41 PM ET, Wed January 12, 2022

Angelina Gonsalves received an unexpected, yet cherished, delivery from the US Postal Service last month -- a letter her late husband wrote to his mother while deployed overseas in 1945.

The letter was written by Sgt. John Gonsalves, a 22-year-old Army soldier stationed in Germany. He was writing to check in on his family and let his mom know that he believed he'd be coming home to Massachusetts soon.

The letter, dated December 6, 1945 -- written several months after World War II ended -- would never make it to his mother's house. But 76 years and three days later, it was delivered by the USPS to his widow. "I got to read it and it was wonderful," Angelina Gonsalves, of Woburn, Massachusetts, told CNN on Wednesday. "It is in really good condition. I was amazed by that myself."

Angelina and John didn't know each other when he wrote that letter. The two were married in 1953 and had five sons. In 2015, John died at the age of 92. In the two-page letter to his mother, also named Angelina, John discusses the "lousy" food options and weather in Bad Orb, where he was stationed, stating the sun hasn't been out but for half a day in a month. He closes the letter by sending his love to the family. The front of the envelope has a six cents stamp attached.

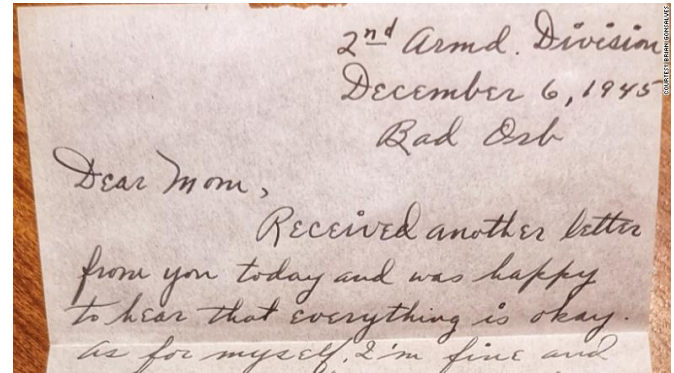
"It was a joy to see her face light up reading his words," Brian Gonsalves, Angelina and John's son, told CNN. "To be able to see her read something he wrote and look back at that history, it's something she'll always have now."

So where was the letter hiding all this time?

That part is unclear, but late last year it was found at the USPS Pittsburgh processing center, according to a letter from the USPS that was sent to Angelina along with John's letter. Employees at the center recognized the importance of the soldier's letter and that it was part of a family's history, so they started trying to track down John's next of kin.

"We are aware of the passing of your husband in 2015 (our condolences)," reads the letter from the USPS. "By virtue of some dedicated sleuth work by postal employees at this facility, we were able to determine your address, hence this letter delivery to you, albeit 76 years delayed. Due to the age and significance to your family history, delivering this letter was of utmost importance to us."

Angelina received the letter on December 9, just before the holidays, which her son said was a nice Christmas gift. "It felt like he came back for the holiday season," he said.



- On the January 11th episode of Jeopardy, in the Double Jeopardy part of the show, the category was "The Victorian Era", and the \$2000 clue was "The world's first postage stamp, this 'dark' one, was issued and soon millions of letters were being sent every year." No one got it. If you were watching, I am sure you were yelling at the TV like I was! {And in case you forgot, it was the Penny Black.}



- The US Postal Inspection Service has warned that counterfeit stamps for sale on the internet have exploded over the past year. They warned that if the price of US Forever Stamps seem too good to be true, they're probably fake. Anywhere from 20% - 50% off of bulk sales of Forever (58 cents) Stamps is the typical discount, and news sources all over the country reported on receiving counterfeit stamps. The deeper the discount, the more likely they were counterfeit. The USPS urges customers to buy stamps directly from the Post Office or approved postal providers. They also ask people who purchase counterfeit stamps to send them to Stamp Acquisition, Stamp Services, Attention: Quality Assurance, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington DC 20260-2436. (Linn's, 1/3/22)



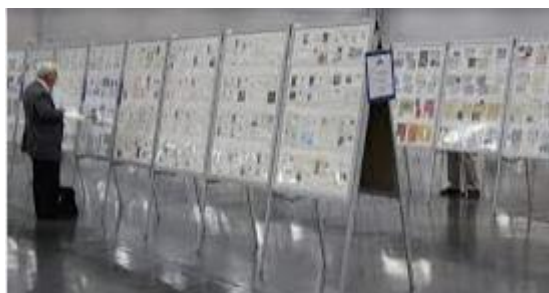
- The Chinese Zodiac Philatelic Society has announced the winners of their 12th and final Best Chinese Zodiac stamps for the Year of the Ox – First Place to Macau, Second Place to Serbia and Third Place to Uruguay.



People born in the Year of the Ox are said to be too honest, as well as strong, reliable, fair, conscientious, calm, patient and methodical. They inspire confidence in others but are stubborn and hate to fail.

Upcoming Events Nearby

- Feb. 26 2022 – WOOPEX – Wooster OH
- March 5 – 6, 2022 – McKinley Stamp Club Show – North Canton OH
- March 18 – 19, 2022 – Garfield-Perry Stamp Show – Strongsville OH
- April 22 – 23, 2022 – WILKPEX – Plum PA
- May 13 – 14, 2022 – Butlerpex, Butler (Lyndora) PA
- June 10 – 11, 2022 – Colopex, Columbus OH
- June 18 – 19, 2022 – SCOPEX – Regional stamp show at APS in Bellefonte, PA
- June 19 – 23, 2022 – APS Summer Seminar at APS, Bellefonte PA
- July 18 – 22, 2022 – Volunteer Work Week at APS – Bellefonte PA
- August 25 – 28, – Great American Stamp Show – Sacramento CA
- October 21 – 23, 2022 – AEROPHILATELY 2022 at the APC – Bellefonte PA
- November 2022 – PITTPEX – Bridgeville PA



Wilkesburg Stamp Club Information:

Meetings – 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Doors open at 12:30 PM and meetings start at 2:00 PM.

Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Churchill PA 15235

All are welcome! Free admission! Free snacks! Stamps! Circuits!

WILKPEX – Our Annual Stamp Show

Friday April 22nd 11 AM – 5 PM; Saturday April 23rd 10 AM – 4 PM – Holiday Park Fire Hall, Plum PA.

Officers:

President: Andy Novotny (novoand@hotmail.com)
Vice President: Laura Kaczynski (laurakac13@verizon.net)
Treasurer: Danielle Weaver (dmm742000@yahoo.com)
Mailings: Stevan & Chris Cady (stevanw2020@gmail.com)
Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Maureen McKeever (maurmomck@gmail.com)
Web Tech: Deb Foltyn (quest4moos@msn.com)

WSC, PO Box 10552, Pittsburgh PA 15235

Newsletter:

Original articles for the newsletter can be submitted from any member to Maureen at a meeting or emailed to her (see above) or via regular mail:

Maureen McKeever, 118 Larchwood Drive, Turtle Creek PA 15145.

Club members will be mailed a black and white copy of the newsletter each month. Anyone can request a color copy to be delivered at a meeting, but please let Steve or Chris know ahead of time.



(We brought scotch from the UK (via Rotterdam) in 20 foot tank containers...)