



## WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

### Volume 19, Issue 7, February 2021

*Wilkinsburg Stamp Club is a member of APS #12293*

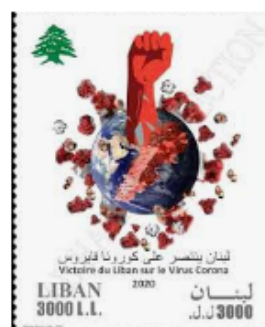
[www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com](http://www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com)

Meeting Schedule: **No meetings currently scheduled** - see below

**WILKPEX 2021 is currently scheduled for Saturday August 7 and Sunday August 8 2021 – Holiday Park Fire Hall, Plum – 415 Old Abers Creek Road 15239**

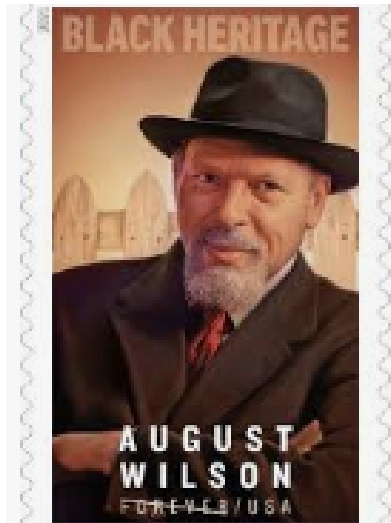
### WSC Meeting Schedule

Because of the increased rate of Covid infections, we have cancelled our in-person meetings for the near future. Andy is exploring the possibility of having Zoom meetings. Please continue to monitor our website to see when we will again meet.



### “UPON FURTHER REVIEW.....”

Our cachet for the August 2021 WILKPEX will be....August Wilson! On January 28, 2021 the USPS released a Forever Stamp as part of the Black Heritage series honoring Pittsburgh born playwright August Wilson (1945 – 2005). He is best known for his Pittsburgh Cycle of plays depicting life in the African American community over the past 100 years, most of which are set in Pittsburgh. His work is critically-acclaimed and performed all over the world.



Mr. Wilson won 2 Pulitzer Prizes, 2 Tony Awards and was nominated for another 10 Tony Awards, all for Best Play of Best Revival of a Play. Two of his plays had their world premieres at The Pittsburgh Public Theater. 3 have been made into movies, all filmed in Pittsburgh. The most recent, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, is currently streaming on Netflix. Famed actor and director Denzel Washington has pledged to bring all 10 of the Pittsburgh Cycle plays to the "silver screen" in the near future. The virtual First Day ceremony was streamed from Pittsburgh.

We believe that an August Wilson cachet will appeal to a broad group of collectors and is timely with this new issue.

The Gene Kelly cachet will remain "on deck" for a future WILKPEX.

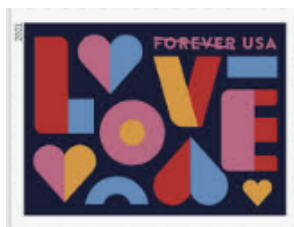
### Wilkinsburg Stamp Club News

- Danielle is planning on driving to Bellefonte to visit APS on Friday February 19<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in joining her, please email or call her no later than Thursday 2/18.
- Circuits – The club is still getting circuits and if you want to get involved please contact Danielle! This is a great way to look to fill holes in your collection or start a new topical collection!
- 2021 Club Picnic – We will have a picnic on July 31, 2021, at the usual pavilion area at Monroeville Park.
- WILKPEX 2021 – It will be Saturday and Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Hall setup will be Friday evening. Keep working on your exhibits and getting your Phlea Market materials together!

- We are also looking for ideas for the 2021 Souvenir Sheet. Remember it should be a spoof of a current stamp that is timely (such as anything to do with COVID).

## Philatelic News

- The USPS seems to have caught up from the December issues that were delaying mail, although some cities (including Cleveland) that were more greatly affected are still behind!
- January 2021 US Stamps: There were several stamps issued this month by the USPS:



- Love (1/14) - An annual tradition.



- Brush Rabbit (1/24) – Additional Ounce stamp.
- Barns (1/24) – 4 designs based on common US barn styles.



- Castillo de San Marcos (1/24) - \$7.95 Priority Mail stamp, showing the oldest fort in the continental US, located in St. Augustine FL.



- Year of the Ox (2/2) – Next in the series celebrating Chinese New



Year.

The USPS has many beautiful and fun stamps planned for 2021. Which should bode well for 2021, since.....

- Many sources say that the sale of stamps was higher in 2020 than the previous years. While still losing money over the fiscal year, package deliveries were up due to more people shopping from home (darn COVID) and more people, especially former and current collectors, bought stamps to help the USPS after the first Corona Virus stimulus bill included a “loan” for the USPS. {Luckily the second stimulus bill changed that \$10 billion loan to a grant. Efforts are still underway to further help the USPS.} Stories about “removed” mail boxes before the election also created sympathy, and knowledge, about the budget woes of the USPS. The forced time at home brought many stamp collectors back to the hobby, and some people even started writing actual paper letters to friends and family. I know that every day when driving past the Bloomfield Post Office I see a line outside.



## Collector's Corner

### Stamp Tongs: A Vital Tool for any collector!

When I came back to stamp collecting in 2019 I thought I had all I needed: albums, hinges, and of course stamps. I never knew about using tongs to handle my stamps! It makes sense – our fingers have oil on them, no matter how well or long you wash your hands. It is the main way your skin protects itself from danger, but this oil can damage your stamps very easily. When I started looking, the choices for tongs were endless. Luckily, you don't have to pay a lot for a nice pair of tongs. A good pair runs between \$4 and \$10 – there is no need to buy gold-tipped tongs unless you want to be extra stylish! Please do not use regular tweezers – most of them have serrated edges which will rip and damage stamps. I have found that the flat-edged (or shovel) tongs work best for me. Shop around! Amazon as well as all the collecting sites sell tongs.



## Member Information

- If you would like to have your "wish list" of stamps included in the newsletter, please send it to me via email or regular mail.
- If you know anyone who is looking to get rid of their stamp collection, ask them if they'd consider donating it to the club.





## Wilkinsburg Stamp Club Information:

Meetings are on hold for the time being. Please check the website for information when we're permitted to safely gather again!

## WILKPEX – Our Annual Stamp Show

WILKPEX 2021 is scheduled for Saturday August 7 and Sunday August 8, 2021, at the Holiday Park Firehall in Plum. Admission is free. Anyone interested in exhibiting or setting up a dealer table is encouraged to contact one of the officers. More information will come as the date comes closer.

### Officers:

President:	Andy Novotny	( <a href="mailto:novoand@hotmail.com">novoand@hotmail.com</a> )
Vice President:	Laura Kaczynski	( <a href="mailto:laurakac13@verizon.net">laurakac13@verizon.net</a> )
Treasurer/Secretary:	Danielle Weaver	( <a href="mailto:dmm742000@yahoo.com">dmm742000@yahoo.com</a> )
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Web Tech:	Deb Foltyn	( <a href="mailto:quest4moos@msn.com">quest4moos@msn.com</a> )

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 Danielle know ahead of time.

