

Kopernik Lodge

Newsletter



Spóźniony słowik

Płacze pani Słowikowa w
gniazdku na akacji,
Bo pan Słowik przed dziewiątą
miał być na kolacji,
Tak się godzin wyznaczonych
pilnie zawsze trzyma,
A już jest po jedenastej - i Słowika
nie ma!

Wszystko stygnie: zupka z
muszek na wieczornej rosie,
Sześć komarów nadziewanych w
konwaliowym sosie,
Motyl z różną, przyprawiony
gęstym cieniem z lasku,
A na deser - tort z wietrzyka w
księżycowym blasku.

Może mu się co zdarzyło? może
go napadli?
Szare piórka oskubali, srebrny
głosik skradli?
To przez zazdrość! To skowronek
z bandą skowroniątek!
Piórka - głupstwo, bo odrosną, ale
głos - majątek!

Nagle zjawia się pan Słowik,
poświstuje, skacze...
Gdzieś ty latał? Gdzieś ty fruwał?
Przecież ja tu płacę!
A pan Słowik słodko ćwierka:
"Wybacz, moje złoto,
Ale wieczór taki piękny, ze
szedłem piechotą!"

J. Tuwim

Remembering "Papa"

For better or for worse, whether you revere him as an exemplar of American fiction or criticize him for being a man's man, Ernest Hemingway has forever etched himself into the American literary canon. If the debate over Hemingway's literary worthiness leaves you tired and bored, you can escape to a place where "Papa"—as he was so lovingly known near the end of his life—is remembered more like an old friend than a literary giant: Key West, Florida.

From July 20–23, in honor of the writer's birthday on July 21, Sloppy Joe's Bar on Duval Street in Key West holds its annual Hemingway Look-Alike Contest. Key West held a special allure for Hemingway. Its world-class deep-sea fishing provided an outlet for Hemingway's masculine bravado. He loved nothing more than to fish in the mornings, write in the afternoons, and head over to Sloppy Joe's in the evenings.

The original Sloppy Joe's was not located in Key West but in Havana, Cuba, another one of Hemingway's favorite places (especially during the Prohibition era). Havana bar owner Jose "Joe" Garcia was known to leave the floor of his bar "sloppy" with melted ice from seafood and cold drinks. Hemingway and other patrons teasingly referred to his bar as Sloppy Joe's. Hemingway often visited the Havana haunt with his friend, bartender Joe Russell. Once Prohibition was lifted in America, Russell opened his own bar in Key West, a bar that would eventually "borrow" the name Sloppy Joe's and become Hemingway's favorite watering hole.

So, what better place to remember Hemingway than at his favorite watering hole in his favorite locale? Each year, the Hemingway Look-Alike Society gathers dozens of its best Hemingways to vie for the honor of becoming that year's beloved "Papa." And lucky for these Hemingways, they don't have to box each other or run with the bulls in Pamplona, two of Papa's favorite pastimes.

THE KOPERNIK FOUNDATION INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE THE

50th

ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Kopernik Lodge

Build by the Polish Community,

Our Kopernik is turning the big 5-0 this year

In the late 1960's, a group of dedicated Polish-Canadian volunteers with a vision generously gave their time, talents, wisdom and financial resources to build a home and create a community for their elderly. The Kopernik Foundation was established and given a specific mandate to build and operate a facility for seniors where the Polish language, spiritual and cultural heritage would be perpetuated.

Kopernik Lodge opened its door in 1973, and provided shelter to over 100 residents. In 1978, Kopernik Lodge joined British Columbia's Ministry of Health Continuing Care Program and registered under the Societies Act of BC so that its residents could benefit from the services available to all British Columbians.

Since its inception, Kopernik Lodge has welcomed over 900 residents from all corners of the world, of all races and faiths, and remains committed to treating everyone with the utmost respect and dignity.

Good Fortune

No meal at a Chinese restaurant is complete without the obligatory fortune cookie to finish the experience. However, there is nothing inherently Chinese about fortune cookies. The crisp vanilla cookies were invented in California around 1915, but just who invented them is up for debate—a debate we hope to resolve before July 20, Fortune Cookie Day.



Modern-day fortune cookies might have been inspired by a real-life Chinese historical figure. In the 14th century, Chinese revolutionary Chu Yuan Chang led a band of rebels against the Mongols. Disguised as a Taoist priest, Chu entered the walls of cities occupied by the Mongols to hand out traditional moon cakes to the locals. Moon cakes were made with lotus nut paste, an ingredient that the Mongols never liked. Knowing that the Mongols would never taste a moon cake, Chu hid messages inside them detailing his strategies to rise against the Mongols. It is believed that the first fortune cookies were born from this ancient practice of hiding messages in moon cakes.

Fast forward to San Francisco in 1914, where Japanese immigrant Makoto Hagiwara ran his famous Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park. After the anti-Japanese mayor of San Francisco attempted to remove Hagiwara from his position, Hagiwara showed his appreciation to friends who stood by him by hiding well wishes inside a cookie. Hagiwara's "fortune cookies" became a staple at the Japanese Tea Garden.

Or perhaps the credit goes to Chinese immigrant David Jung, founder of Los Angeles' Hong Kong Noodle Company. Jung claims to have created the cookie in 1918. So saddened by the unemployed people wandering the streets of Los Angeles, he invented a cookie that held inspirational Bible passages on small strips of paper.

Fortune has favored Hagiwara. In 1983, the unofficial Court of Historical Review in San Francisco ruled Hagiwara the rightful inventor of the fortune cookie.

Hardscrabble Life

In July, Las Vegas, Nevada, will host one of the most consequential and cutthroat competitions in the world: the 2023 Scrabble Players Championship. The competition is so stiff that Scrabble enthusiasts declare the entire week Scrabble Week.

Anyone who has played Scrabble with a serious player knows how frustrating it can be. After all, many words are allowed in the game that we don't use in common language. This is where the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary comes in. This dictionary is loaded with words players can use during play, even little-known words like *atemoya*, a "Central and South American fruit," and *sthenia*, "a condition of abnormal strength or vitality," to name a couple. For years, it was even legal to play terms that are offensive, such as racial slurs and profanity. As recently as 2021, a list of banned words was released, an act that some players lauded as morally just and others decried as ruining the game.

Unlucky July



According to folklore, it is unlucky to wed in July. This nuptial inauspiciousness comes from several old rhymes and sayings. One goes: "Marry when June roses blow; Over land and sea you'll go. Those who in July do wed must labour for their daily bread." An American saying from the 1930s says that July weddings lead to marriages that "are apt to be crisscrossed with sun and shadow." One saying even pinpoints weddings held on July 4, warning couples that they "will live a life that is largely homeless." Over the centuries, it seems that people have looked for any reason to predict the fate of a marriage. And the superstition about lucky months doesn't stop at marriage, either. Ancient Romans advised against being born in May. In 15th-century Europe, Christians thought January was unlucky. Of course, these superstitions are largely baseless.

Julian Tuwim

Julian Tuwim was a Polish poet born in 1894, in Łódź. He was the leader of the Skamander group of experimental poets, he was also a major figure Polish literature. In his principal collection of poetry, *Słowa we krwi* [words bathed in blood] (1926), he wrote with fervor and violence of the emptiness of urban existence.

Tuwim spent his childhood and early school years in Łódź. Between 1916-1918 he studied law and philosophy in Warsaw. During that time he co-operated with various magazines and cabarets. During World War II he emigrated to Romania, France, Portugal, Brasil, and in 1942 to New York. There he wrote his major poem "Kwiaty Polskie", in which he describes the time of his early childhood in Łódź. In June 1946 Tuwim returned to Poland. Between 1947-1950 he was the artistic director of Teatre Nowy in Łódź. He was awarded many times for his poetry, among them was the Literary Award of Łódź (1928, 1949), doctor honoris causa title by the University of Łódź (1949), Pen Club Award for translations from Puszkun (1935) and the national award (1951). He died in 1953, in Zakopane.

Okulary

Biega, krzyczy pan Hilary:

„Gdzie są moje okulary?”

Szuka w spodniach i w surducie,
W prawym bucie, w lewym bucie.

Wszystko w szafach poprzewracał,
Maca szlafrok, palto maca.

„Skandal! – krzyczy - nie do wiary!

Ktoś mi ukradł okulary!”

Pod kanapą, na kanapie,
Wszędzie szuka, parska, sapie!
Szpera w piecu i w kominie,
W mysiej dziurze i w pianinie.

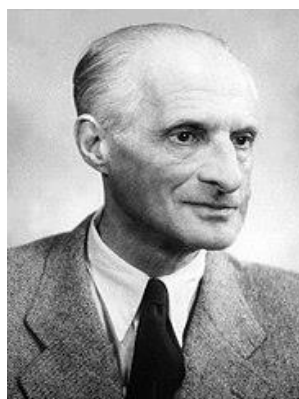
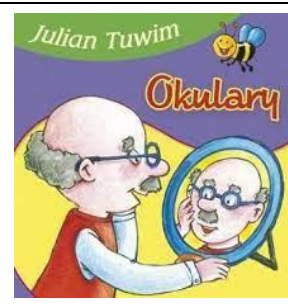
Już podłogę chce odrywać,
Już policję zaczął wzywać.

Nagle - zerknął do lusterka...

Nie chce wierzyć... Znowu zerka.

Znalazł! Są! Okazało się,

Że je ma na własnym nosie.



Julian Tuwim

The glasses/spectacles

Mr. Hillary's screaming as he passes,
“Where on earth's my pair of glasses?”

He scans his trousers and his suits,
His left shoe, right shoe, and his boots.

His coats, his shirts and so much more,
‘Til everything is on the floor.

“Terrible! Shocking! Foul!” he gnashes.

“Someone's stole my pair of glasses!”

He snorts as he looks everywhere.

Under the sofa, here and there.

Up the chimney, looking twice.

The piano, even checks the mice!

He rips the floorboards with a groan.

He's going to give the police a phone.

But before he dials, he sees the mirror.

And then... well, things could not be clearer.

He found his specs. It clearly shows,

They're there, on the end of his nose!

The Rights of Women

From July 19–20, 1848, the first Women's Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York. The convention garnered little publicity and attracted only 300 attendees, most of them locals, but the small gathering launched a seven-decades-long movement to win women the right to vote.



Perhaps the most famous figure to attend the convention was Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Stanton was well-educated at prestigious schools and learned much at home from her father, a prominent lawyer and politician. Stanton would go on to marry the noted abolitionist lecturer Henry Stanton, and she, too, would become a powerful voice against slavery.

Stanton and her husband attended the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London in 1840. Much to Stanton's surprise, women were excluded from the convention. While waiting for her husband, Stanton met fellow abolitionist and Quaker preacher Lucretia Mott. The two women, infuriated that they were barred from the convention, vowed to hold their own convention. Eight years later, their Women's Rights Convention opened in Seneca Falls.

In preparation for the convention, Stanton authored *The Declaration of Sentiments*, effectively redrafting the Declaration of Independence with the inclusion of the words *woman* and *women*. In the document, Stanton laid bare a list of legal and social "injuries and usurpations" perpetrated on women by men. This document would become the women's manifesto, asserting the need for equality in the realms of work, family, education, religion, and politics. Convention attendees were asked to vote on the individual resolutions of the document. Ironically, each resolution easily passed except for women's right to vote. It took impassioned speeches by Stanton and guest speaker Frederick Douglass to pass the resolution. It would take another 72 years before women were given the right to vote in 1920.

One Wrong Makes a Right

Douglas Corrigan lived during the earliest era of flight, and he joined a band of pilots seeking fame for their flying prowess. In 1927, Charles Lindbergh famously became the first man to fly across the Atlantic. Young Corrigan was a mechanic on Lindbergh's *Spirit of St. Louis*. He followed in Lindbergh's footsteps when, in 1938, he rebuilt an old plane and flew nonstop from California to New York. The cross-country trip was not remarkable, as it had been piloted before, but the press was nevertheless impressed that such a journey could be made in such an old and unreliable aircraft.

After landing in New York, Corrigan planned to continue across the Atlantic. His hopes were dashed when authorities denied him the chance in such a rickety old plane. Corrigan decided to head back to California. On July 17, he lifted off and headed west. But after a few minutes, he turned his plane east! 28 hours later, Corrigan landed in Dublin, Ireland, claiming that he had gotten lost in the clouds and his instruments had stopped working. While most everyone knew this was a ruse, the papers called him "Wrong-Way" Corrigan, and he became a national celebrity.

Canned Heat Down Under



Since 1974, Mindil Beach in Darwin, Australia, has hosted the Beer Can Regatta. Sunday, July 16, the antics will resume when 60 boats made of old beer cans will attempt to float for the amusement of the 22,000 spectators. The event was first conceived in 1974 as a way to clean up the many aluminum cans littering the streets of Darwin. Over the past several decades, the Regatta has become Darwin's most iconic event. Repeat participants spend the entire year gathering cans (and drinking copious amounts), and they test and retest methods to create maximum buoyancy. One boat used 30,000 cans and held 87 people!

A Walk Through History

On July 1, 1979, the Japanese technology company Sony introduced its Walkman portable cassette player to the world, an innovation that would forever change the way we enjoy music.



Plenty of portable cassette-tape players were available in 1979, but none of them were designed to be used by individuals walking around. The cassette tape, developed in 1963, allowed people to listen to tapes in their cars or on large cassette players. Sony itself sold the bulky TC-D5 cassette player, but company cofounder Masaru Ibuka was not satisfied. He wanted a truly personal and portable system optimized for playback while he was out and about, especially when he was traveling on long business flights.

Norio Ohga, Sony's executive deputy president, got to work with engineer Kozo Ohson. Soon, Ohson had invented both a new cassette player and a pair of lightweight headphones with fantastic sound quality. The invention was better than anything Sony could have hoped for. Sony Chairman Akio Morita declared, "It'll be a hit!" Now, all Sony needed was a name.

At first, the cassette player was called by many names. In the U.S., marketers wanted to call it the Sound-About. In the U.K., it was the Stowaway. Marketers decided that too many names in too many countries would be confusing, so Sony finally decided on the Walkman.

In June of 1979, Sony invited a group of journalists to Yoyogi park in Tokyo, where they were each given a Walkman to wear. The journalists strolled the park while listening to various demonstrations on the device. Needless to say, it was an instant hit. Sony thought it would sell 5,000 Walkmans in the first month. It soon sold 50,000! The device's unique combination of excellent sound quality and privacy (thanks to its headphones) was unprecedented. The Walkman's popularity led to a boost in cassette sales and even exercise, now that people wanted to get outside and listen to music on the go.

Breaking Free from Boredom



The third Saturday in August is Break the Monotony Day, a day to deviate from routine and try something different. Having a routine is not a bad thing. Routines help us stay organized and allow us to be productive. Sometimes, though, routines put us on autopilot and cut us off from our feelings. Psychologists see tremendous value in breaking the monotony of our regular routines. Trying new things and new experiences kindles feelings of awe, curiosity, and excitement. Studies show that feelings of awe—those paradigm-shifting moments of understanding—create feelings of connectedness and meaning in our lives.

Mongolia's Manly Games



Each year, from July 11–13, Mongolian civilization pauses for Naadam, the festival of the "Three Manly Games." Horse racing, wrestling, and archery have been inextricably tied to Mongolian nomadic culture for centuries, since before the reign of Genghis Khan. In ancient times, Mongolian kings and generals used these three sports to train their armies. Today, Naadam is a celebration of all things Mongolian. The games themselves provide a fantastic spectacle of competition and national pride, but alongside the sports, visitors find traditional Mongolian food, performances, crafts, poetry, and music. And while the games might be called "manly," women often participate in horse racing and archery. Why do women not wrestle? One legend tells of how a woman beat all the men in wrestling. To prevent further humiliation of men, women were barred from the sport.