



This walking tour **"The Path to Mutual Respect: A Path through the Quarter of Mutual Respect Showing the Journey from Tragedy through Reconciliation to Acceptance"** was prepared by the 2008 participants of the international summer school Experiencing the New Europe. (See back inside cover for more information!).

To explore other neighborhoods in this fascinating city, look for the following companion self-guided tours also prepared by students from the United States and Poland:

City on the Islands: A Walking Tour through Ostrów Tumski and the Origins of Wrocław

Centennial Hall: A Path through Centennial Hall & the Heart of European Modernism

The International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education (IISCE) at the University of Lower Silesia (DSW).

www.iisce.org



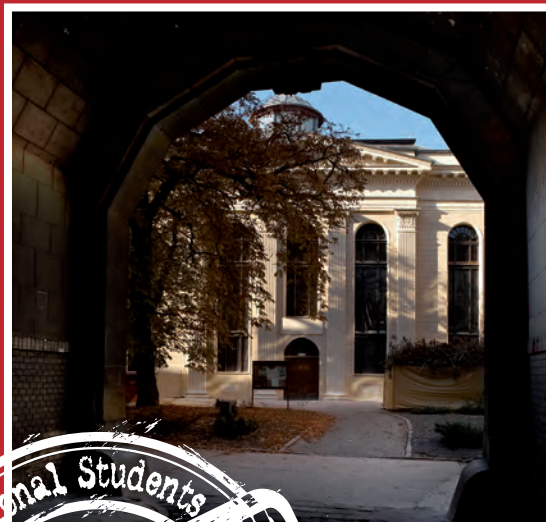
The College at
BROCKPORT
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



University of Lower Silesia



The Path to Mutual Respect: A path through the Quarter of Mutual Respect showing the journey from tragedy through reconciliation to acceptance



The Path to Mutual Respect: A path through the Quarter of Mutual Respect showing the journey from tragedy through reconciliation to acceptance

Starting Point Orthodox Cathedral of the Nativity of Our Lady Mikołaja Street 40



Orthodox Cathedral was constructed in 1268 as a filial Chapel of St. Elizabeth during the Piast Dynasty, the Orthodox Cathedral of the Nativity of Our Lady is one of the four main temples within the Quarter of Mutual Respect. Formerly the Church of St. Barbara, it was constructed in a late Gothic-style.

- 2 The Church of St. Anthony
- 3 The Monastery
- 4 Kinoman the Dwarf
- 5 Kazimierza Wielkiego Street
- 6 The Augsburg Confession Church
- 7 Hohenzollerns' Residence
- 8 Jewish Theological Seminary
- 9 Una Sancta
- 10 White Stork Synagogue

The Path to Mutual Respect: A path through the Quarter of Mutual Respect showing the journey from tragedy through reconciliation to acceptance



The Path to Mutual Respect: A path through the Quarter of Mutual Respect showing the journey from tragedy through reconciliation to acceptance



The Quarter of Mutual Respect

***"The Path to Mutual Respect: A path through the Quarter of Mutual Respect showing the journey from tragedy through reconciliation to acceptance"** guide was produced by students of an international summer school on European urban transformation, Experiencing the New Europe, organized by the International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education of the University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław in partnership with the State University of New York at Brockport. The objective of the summer school was to enable students to understand the underlying cultural, historic and social forces at play in the making of Central Europe by using the urban space of the city of Wrocław as a laboratory in which we investigated the past and its impact on the present dynamics of a 21st century Central European metropolis in transition. Students spent three weeks (July 12 – August 1, 2008) researching areas of the city that embody the complex and multi-layered identity of Wrocław (Centennial Hall and the Quarter of Mutual Respect). Methodologically, the project grows from the tradition of action research, which aims at implementing knowledge in practical social action. Therefore, the students, based on their interviews, site visits, observations, and exchange with academic experts, city officials, practitioners and regular inhabitants, all of whom are involved in reshaping the Quarter of Mutual Respect – produced a guide whose goal is to introduce this unique city space and its message to future visitors to Wrocław.*

This guide is a part of the ongoing project of action research in urban spaces conducted by the International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education at the University of Lower Silesia.



Intro to The Path to Mutual Respect

Today, what is known as the **Quarter of Mutual Respect** epitomizes the spirit of inter-religious and intercultural understanding and respect. This neighborhood is home to people and institutions representing multiple ethnicities, religions and languages.

Today it stands as an up-and-coming area of the city, owing its new-found popularity to cozy cafes and cultural niches along Włodkowica St. as well as the booming night life in the passages off of Sw. Antoniego Street. However, until the year 2005, the Quarter was nothing more than a dilapidated neighborhood considered by most to be apart from, rather than a part of, the city of Wrocław, as if the city walls (along Kazimierza Wielkiego Str.) that once separated this area from the main city still remained. In many areas, the damage from Nazi and Soviet occupations as well as the Polish-Communist rule still seemed fresh.

Thanks to the efforts of both religious and non-religious leaders, city authorities and local non-governmental organizations throughout the city, this area has the potential to inspire cities throughout Europe.

Birth of the Quarter



Birth of the Quarter

With the political peace of the 1990s, the discord between religious communities came sharply into focus. Religious leaders could no longer stand by after many encounters with aggression and vandalism motivated by religious bigotry. They began to realize the need for establishing understanding and tolerance between their communities. The idea of establishing an area dedicated to religious tolerance first arose as the leader of the Jewish community, Jerzy Kichler, was walking by the Orthodox Church (located in what is now the Quarter of Mutual Respect). He witnessed a young man throwing a rock at religious icons located close to the church. Distressed by this incident, Kichler approached the Catholic priest, Jerzy Żytowiecki, and discussed the possibility of cooperation between the religious communities. Under the leadership of the Catholic Archbishop Henryk Gulbinowicz the Jewish and Catholic leaders were joined by the Bishop of the Lutheran Church (Ryszard Bogusz) and the Archbishop and priest of the Orthodox Cathedral (Archbishop Jeremiash and priest Alexander Konachowicz). They desired to have peace among their communities, wanting to move beyond simple religious tolerance to the deeper concept of mutual respect.

The four communities, working together, formed what is now known as the Quarter of Mutual Respect, which is both a physical area in the city and the home of this idea and its practice.

Theory to Practice



Photo by: Students and staff of
Experiencing the New Europe 2008



Photo by: Students and staff of
Experiencing the New Europe 2008

Theory to Practice

During an ecumenical service in 1998 Pope John Paul II called Wrocław "the meeting place" in the presence of representatives of different religions invited to pray with the Catholic community. The Pope's words were adopted as a tagline for the city in 2002, yet the Quarter of Mutual Respect has been fulfilling that idea since the late 1990s. In order to represent their communal interests, the Foundation of the Quarter of Mutual Respect was established in 2005 by five founding members: the Jewish Community, the Protestant Church, the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church, and the Polish Council of Christians and Jews. The Foundation runs multiple projects, such as the Ecumenical Week of Joint Prayer held annually in January, renovation of the four temples, and an important venture called Children of One God.

This ongoing project conveys the message of the Quarter through various means, including educational meetings with children from the surrounding communities, acclaimed artistic workshops with elementary and middle school students, concerts in different languages specific to the four religious communities (e.g. Latin, Old Church Slavonic, Hebrew, Old German, and Polish), and sessions of joint singing and psalms. In the future, the Foundation plans to host meetings between Polish and Ukrainian youth, while a series of conferences are scheduled for later in the year.

The Foundation and its programs have been enthusiastically received by all four communities and a large number of volunteers are involved in its activities.

Contact information: Kazimierza Wielkiego 29,
www.proarte.org.pl, prorate@box43.p

Historical Context



Historical Context

Since its founding by Slavic tribes in the 10th century, Wrocław has been called home by people of many religious and ethnic backgrounds. Unfortunately, members of the Catholic, Jewish, Evangelical, and Orthodox faiths have had to contend with varying forms of religious persecution, including pogroms, expulsions, and restrictions of individual liberty.

The collapse of Poland's First Republic in 1795 sparked more than a century of sporadic revolutions which led to the formation of the Second Republic in 1918. The Polish state ceased to exist with the joint Nazi and Soviet invasion in September 1939. Following the end of World War II, Poland re-emerged as a Communist state, which is sometimes referred to as the Second and a Half Republic.

The Potsdam Agreement, drawn up by the Allied powers of WWII, redrew Poland's borders. Poland gained new territory to the southwest, including the city of Wrocław, while former Polish territory in the east was annexed by the Soviet Union. A government policy of "Polonization" forced approximately 4.5 million Poles from the east to resettle in the new territory. The estimated 8 million Germans living in the new territory were expelled from the region. German inscriptions, monuments, street signs, and other evidence of German habitation were removed from municipal and public spaces across the new territory.

After forty-four years of oppressive Communist rule, the will of the Polish people could not be ignored. In December 1990 the Third Republic of Poland was declared with the election of Poland's first democratic president.

Key Dates



Key Dates

Key Dates in the History of the City:

992 Piasts acquire the town from Bohemians to make part of dynasty

Death of Duke Henry gives the city to Bohemians **1335**

1526 End of Jagiello line lets Austrians absorb the territory

Prussia receives the land through the Treaty of Breslau **1742**

1918 Germany absorbs the city into their own country

Treaty of Potsdam assigns city to Poles **1945**

The Orthodox Cathedral



Orthodox Cathedral of the Nativity of Our Lady
40 Św. Mikołaja Street (corner of Św. Mikołaja
& Wszystkich Świętych Street)

The Orthodox Cathedral

Constructed in 1268 as a filial Chapel of St. Elizabeth during the Piast Dynasty, the Orthodox Cathedral of the Nativity of Our Lady is one of the four main temples within the Quarter of Mutual Respect. Formerly the Church of St. Barbara, it was constructed in a late Gothic-style which is typical of Wrocław architecture.

In 1525 during the Protestant Reformation, it was converted into a Lutheran church, and continued to serve neighboring parishes whose churches had been plundered after the Peace of Westphalia (1648). The tradition of openness and compassion has continued to characterize the church to this day. Burned down during WWII by the Nazis, many priceless works of stone and wooden art were destroyed. Rebuilding began in 1947 and many local artists were involved in the restoration of the lost artwork without regard to their own religious affiliation, representing an early example of communal harmony and efforts. In 1963 the Church was given to the Orthodox congregation and its name was changed to its current form.

The Church has been actively involved in the activities of the Quarter of Mutual Respect, taking part in such projects as Children of One God and the Bible and Music. Within these projects, children and adults of the four denominations meet each other, learn about their religious traditions and prepare joint presentations and performances representative of the diversity of languages, cultural and religious traditions. While church followers speak different Slavic languages, the services are held in Old Slavonic – a dead language used today only in religious ceremonies, but uniting the Orthodox community worldwide.

For more information or to visit the church, please go to the main office (located in the parish office next to the church). Mass is held daily at 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Sunday mass is held at 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The Church of St. Anthony

The Church of St. Anthony



The St. Anthony's Cathedral and the adjoining monastery were constructed during the late 17th century by the Franciscans. The church was designed in the Baroque style of architecture. The Cathedral was originally used only for the monastery and dedicated to St. Anthony, it was not until later that the church transitioned into a parish. Since the establishment of the church in the 17th century, it has changed hands several times, originally under the order of the Franciscans, moving to the Elizabethans, continuing to the Silesian Order, followed by the Catholic Diathesis and finally, starting in 1998, under the control of the Paulites.

During World War II, the church withstood major damages and was used for the first thanksgiving mass after the war to celebrate the new Polish presence on the formerly German territories. The connection of the Catholic Church and Parish to the Quarter of Mutual Respect has been strong, represented by the leading figure of Archbishop Henryk Gulbinowicz who was a proponent of the Quarter's establishment. The Church of St. Anthony takes active part in the inter-religious activities and builds ties with its neighbors within the Quarter. During the flood of 1997 which damaged much of the Quarter, the churches remained untouched.

Many members of the community saw this as a miracle and were compelled to help each other; the Catholic Church, for example, gave one ton of potatoes to the Jewish Community to help feed the people whose homes in the area had been damaged.

YOU CAN VISIT THE CHURCH

Monday–Friday: 6:30am-6:45pm

Best Time for Groups to Visit:

Monday–Friday 12.00-3.00pm

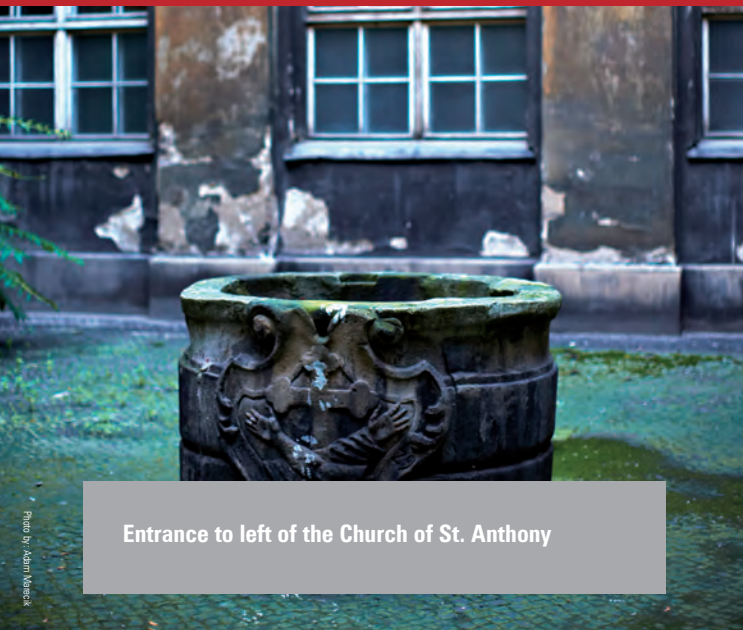
Saturday 7.00am-7.00pm,

Sunday 7.00am-1.00pm, and 6.00pm-9.00pm*

* If the doors to the church are closed, please go to the hallway to the left of the church and ring the bell that says "Furtka" and someone will assist you.

**The Church of St. Anthony of Padua Parish
(St. Nicolas Parish) Św. Antoniego Street 30**

The Monastery



Entrance to left of the Church of St. Anthony

The establishment of the Franciscan Monastery took place between 1679 and 1694. It was originally run by the Franciscan Monks, but was forced to change hands after a political transition within the area, where the majority of people were Protestant, thus forcing the Franciscans out of the area. When this occurred at the end of the 17th century, the Elizabethan nuns took over the monastery, converting it to a convent. Due to the work with health care and hospitals that the Elizabethans were associated with, the former monastery was converted to a hospital.

The building remained a hospital until after World War II in 1945. Today the building is owned by the city of Wrocław; however the remains of the hospital and the old equipment can still be seen. Currently, few people live in the building and the city has the intention of converting the old monastery into a hotel, hoping to attract people to the Quarter of Mutual Respect.

Kinoman the Dwarf



Kazimierza Wielkiego Street, near the Helios cinema

The Dwarfs seen throughout Wrocław are a testament to the 1980s Wrocław-based protest movement called The Orange Alternative. Founded by the charismatic Waldemar "Major" Fydrych in 1981, the Orange Alternative utilized elements of theater and surrealism to protest against the Communist regime.

The Major used to draw dwarfs over whitewashed Solidarity slogans criticizing the regime, while other members of the movement donned orange dwarf hats during street demonstrations. How could the police justify arresting people for attending an "illegal meeting of dwarfs?" The dwarf seen here is Kinoman (Cinema-fanatic) and he represents the Helios movie theater. Dwarfs, like Kinoman, can be found all over the city, each with different meaning, but all calling on the theme of the dwarfs of the Orange Alternative.

Kazimierza Wielkiego Street

Casimir the Great Street

Kazimierza Wielkiego Street

Casimir the Great Street



Kazimierza Wielkiego Street runs along what used to be the inner city moat. The area between this moat and the outer city moat was once called the Maltsters' Quarter. Since the Middle Ages, this part of the town developed at a different pace and character than the inner core of the city. The Maltsters' Quarter, which encompassed the area known today as the Quarter of Mutual Respect, was a place of transition, inhabited by tradesmen and members of the Jewish Community who for many years were not allowed to enter the city center.

Jewish people inhabiting this area were eventually allowed to build hostels, a hospital, schools and prayer houses such as the territorial "bożnice" (small synagogues) serving Jewish communities from different cities. These temples were used by small groups of varying traditions of Jewish faith and were privately owned. It was not until the middle of 18th century that the official Land Synagogue was established replacing the small temples. Like the former moat, Kazimierza Wielkiego Street continues to spatially divide the Quarter of Mutual Respect from the city center represented by the main Market Square (Rynek).

The Church of God's Providence

The Church of God's Providence



Under the rule of Prussian King Frederick II, a Calvinist, the church was constructed in 1750. Its completion, as the first Calvinist church in Wrocław, marked the end of 200 years of intolerance that had forced the Calvinists underground. The church's architecture is of the late baroque period and its architect remains unknown. The church was once linked directly to the former Prussian palace located nearby. The simple design reflects John Calvin's prohibition of ornamental decoration. The pulpit is centered directly above the altar.

The church is also home to a much acclaimed organ dating back to 1752, and is still in use today. Following WWII, the church became Lutheran when Wrocław became a Polish city. While the parish is now Lutheran, the church remains respectful of its Calvinist roots. It still displays several plaques memorializing fallen German Calvinist soldiers from WWI.

Today the church has a small parish, but deep roots within the community. They maintain five schools and a center for the elderly and people with disabilities. The acoustics of the church make it a perfect place for concerts, especially those performed on behalf of The Quarter of Mutual Respect. The Church is open everyday from Easter until Autumn, but if closed, please go to the office in the back of Church and somebody will assist you.

The Augsburg Confession Church of God's Providence
29 Kazimierza Wielkiego Street

Hohenzollerns' Residence

Hohenzollerns' Residence



The Hohenzollerns' Residence is a remnant of the former palace of King Frederick the Great of Prussia (also known as King Frederick II). The rest of the Palace (built in 1710 by an unknown German architect) was destroyed during WWII. It currently houses The City Museum.

Frederick was born in Berlin in 1712. He conquered the city in the mid-18th Century. An accomplished military strategist, he was also known for his own brand of enlightened rule. He strongly opposed torture, preserved the freedom of speech, and advocated religious tolerance. He also took Jewish citizens under his protection.

It is no coincidence that Frederick's palace is located near what is today referred to as the Quarter of Mutual Respect, as the proximity allowed the monarch to quell acts of religious intolerance and bigotry.

Hohenzollerns' Residence – City Museum,
35 Kazimierza Wielkiego Street & Wolności Square 7

Jewish Theological Seminary

Jewish Theological Seminary



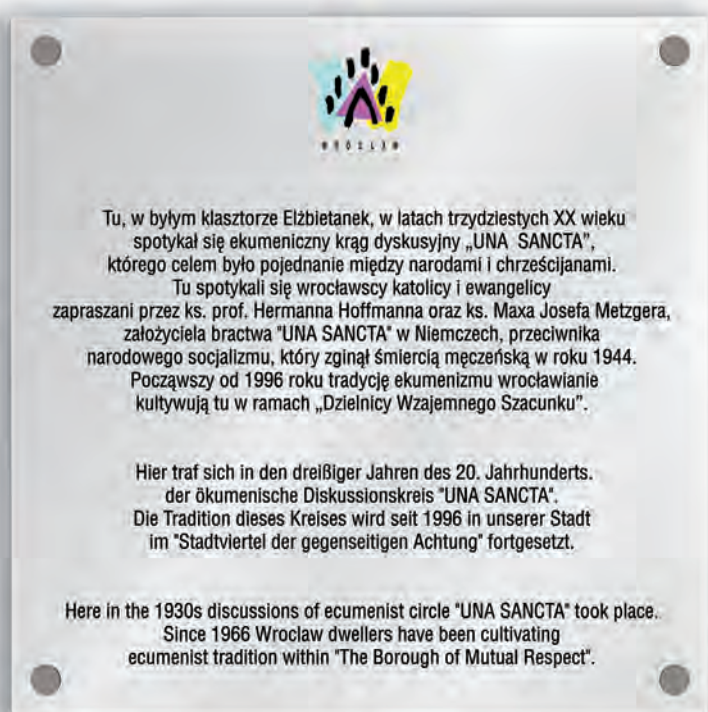
Breslau – today's Wrocław – was the home of the first modern rabbinical seminary in Germany. The first director of the school was Zacharias Frankel. In his magnum opus, *Darkhei HaMishnah* (Ways of the Mishnah), Rabbi Frankel amassed scholarly support which showed that Jewish law was dynamic and had always developed in response to changing conditions. He called his approach towards Judaism 'Positive-Historical', which meant that one should accept Jewish law as normative, yet still be open to change and development within the Jewish tradition.

Frankel was the founder and the most eminent propagator of the school of historical Judaism, which advocated freedom of research while upholding the authority of traditional Jewish belief and practice. This school of thought developed along lines similar to that of the Conservative branch of Judaism as practiced today in the United States. Under Frankel, the seminary became a model for many Jewish institutions in Western Europe and the prototype of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Breslau's Jewish Theological Seminary ceased to exist in 1938 with many of its library collections destroyed during Kristallnacht. All remnants of the building disappeared in the immediate post-WWII years.

Jewish Theological Seminary,
18 Włodkowska Street

Una Sancta



Una Sancta
15-17 Włodkowica Street

Una Sancta

The Una Sancta (One Church) Memorial Plate was first displayed in 1966. It commemorates the ecumenical accomplishments of the Una Sancta Brotherhood founded by Max Josef Metzger. It was placed deliberately to mark the meeting place of the group's ecumenist members in the 1930s. Born in 1887, Metzger was a military chaplain and Catholic Priest during WWI where he learned first-hand that war could "no longer give anybody the prospect of winning more than he loses." He formed the Una Sancta Brotherhood which was dedicated to cultivating Christian unity. Metzger was executed by the National Socialists in 1944 for writing a memorandum on the shape of the post-WWII German state and world peace.

Even while awaiting death in prison, Metzger was strong in his conviction and wrote to the Pope urging him to reach out to the Protestants. He was determined to bring about change despite his impending demise.

In prison, Metzger wrote:
(Excerpt from *In The Condemned Cell*)

***"Already in the dusk, I see Death with his scythe,
Reaping his harvest of bloody, human sheaves.
My heart, craving for life, cries out but not alone;
A million hearts protest with me but in vain,
For Death mows ruthlessly and still the war is raging....
Lord God Almighty, doth thou see our cruel fate?"***

White Stork Synagogue

White Stork Synagogue



White Stork Synagogue
7 Włodkowica Street

The White Stork Synagogue was completed in 1829 by Carl Ferdinand Langhans, under Prussian rule. Its layout was typical of a neo-classical synagogue, with the main prayer hall surrounded on three sides by galleries for women. Due to its proximity to the surrounding buildings, it was the only synagogue spared in Wrocław on Kristallnacht in 1938. After the war, the Communist government took the synagogue from the Jewish Community of Wrocław, only to be returned to them in a ruined condition in 1995. Since then, it has undergone significant restoration, funded from different sources. The wood frame of the Aron ha-kodesh (the Ark of the Covenant) and the damaged tablets of the Ten Commandments are all that remain of the original structure, part of which is preserved in the City Museum of Wrocław.

The synagogue is a place for regular services as well as the celebration of major Jewish holidays. The White Stork Synagogue Choir is the only one of its kind in Poland. Several organizations are involved in the cultural animation of this space. For over a decade, an agency Pro Arte has organized cultural and artistic events and festivals in the synagogue (*for more information, please see www.simcha.art.pl, www.proarte.org.pl*). Since 2006, the Bente Kahan Foundation, situated at Włodkowica 5, began organizing events related to education, art and learning within the Jewish community (*for more information, please see www.fbk.org.pl*). The Jewish Lauder Etz Chaim School (8 grades) organizes important events in the synagogue such as end of the school year celebrations (see www.etzchaim.jewish.org.pl).

For more information and to visit the synagogue, please call or go to the Jewish Information Center open Monday through Friday 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Religious Services take place in the Small Synagogue – a house of prayer (Włodkowica 9) on the Sabbath and during the holidays at 9:30 a.m. (tel.: 71 343 6401, 781 7112).

The Path to Mutual Respect ends

The Path to Mutual Respect ends



The Path to Mutual Respect ends in a courtyard which, although a witness to much historical injustice and tragedy is now space for reflection and conversation towards inter-religious and inter-cultural understanding. The atmosphere of the courtyard promotes fellowship and sharing of culture and ideas. Visitors can participate in the community by reflecting on the values the Quarter of Mutual Respect symbolizes.

The Path to Mutual Respect: A path through the Quarter of Mutual Respect showing the journey from tragedy through reconciliation to acceptance

Map of Wrocław

Map of Wrocław



The Path to Mutual Respect: A path through the Quarter of Mutual Respect showing the journey from tragedy through reconciliation to acceptance



Bryan Alvarez
Illinois State University



Brandon Antonelli
SUNY Brockport



Kevin Bates
SUNY Brockport



Angela Brice
SUNY Brockport



Sarah Davies
BIOLA University



Aleksandra Jaroszyńska
University of Lower Silesia



Laura Metzler
SUNY Brockport



Ly Nguyen
SUNY Brockport



Steven Perez
Rutgers University



Joshua Sliker
SUNY Brockport



Mike Sullivan
SUNY Brockport

2008 PARTICIPANTS

Special thanks to: Mariolla Apanel, Ryszard Bogusz, Rafał Dutkiewicz, Jerzy Kichler, Urszula Kłobuszewska, Aleksander Konachowicz, Łukasz Krzywka, Piotr Oszczanowski, Stanisław Rybarczyk, Tomasz Sielicki, Karolina Szykierska, Mariusz Tabulski, the Society for the Beautification of Wrocław, State University of New York at Brockport, University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław (Dolnośląska Szkoła Wyższa), the Citizens of Wrocław and the religious communities in the Quarter of Mutual Respect.

The Path to Mutual Respect: A path through the Quarter of Mutual Respect showing the journey from tragedy through reconciliation to acceptance

Wrocław

info

souvenirs

Tourist and Cultural Information Center

Opening hours (the whole week): 10.00–20.00

Sukiennice St. 12, 50-107 Wrocław,

tel: +48 71 342 01 85, fax: +48 71 342 28 98,

mobile: +48 605 222 227

e-mail: info@itwroclaw.pl, www.wroclaw-info.pl



Wrocław

the meeting point

Tourist Information Center

Opening hours (the whole week):

During the season (April the 1st until October the 31st),

9.00–21.00, outside the season 9.00–19.00

Rynek 14, 50-101 Wrocław,

tel: +48 71 344 31 11, fax: +48 71 344 29 62,

mobile: +48 663 888 725

e-mail: info@itwroclaw.pl, www.wroclaw-info.pl



The Path to Mutual Respect: A path through the Quarter of Mutual Respect showing the journey from tragedy through reconciliation to acceptance

PUBLISHER: Dolnośląska Szkoła Wyższa (University of Lower Silesia)

Wydawnictwo Naukowe Dolnośląskiej Szkoły Wyższej

PHOTOS: Juliet D. Golden, Adam Marecik, Łukasz Szmigiel, Students and staff of Experiencing the New Europe 2008

ARCHIVAL ILLUSTRATIONS: Collections of the University of Wrocław Library and Museum of Architecture in Wrocław

COVER DESIGN AND LAYOUT: Orfin Studio | www.orfinstudio.pl

Agnieszka Kaczmarek and Paweł Grabowski

ISBN 978-83-62302-00-0