

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BY
EDWARD J. RAJTAR

Honorary Consul of Hungary Csilla Grauzer and our president on Polish-Hungarian Friendship Day.

Last month, I took a vacation to Europe and naturally spent a few days in Poland. The last time I was there was just over three years ago when my former employer transferred a majority of jobs to Poland. I was there for 6 months training the new Polish employees.

I landed in Warsaw and a friend offered to pick me up and transport me to the train station since I was headed straight for Krakow. Friday afternoon traffic was horrible, and when I finally got to the station, the ticket line was reminiscent of the old days. The line snaked for 3 rows in front of the ticket windows and as my luck had it after 30 minutes in line, every seat on the train I was going to take, had been booked. I was lucky enough to get a standing room-only ticket. It was a throw-back to my travels throughout the country in the late 70's and 80's, when it was rare to get a train seat unless you bought a 1st class ticket.

Krakow holds a special place in my heart as I studied at The Jagiellonian University for a year. I dropped my bags off at the hotel and headed to the Rynek, which was alive with people. I went to one of my favorite restaurants, had a nice meal and enjoyed a jazz trio. *Continued on pg. 6*

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- A Polish architect for all

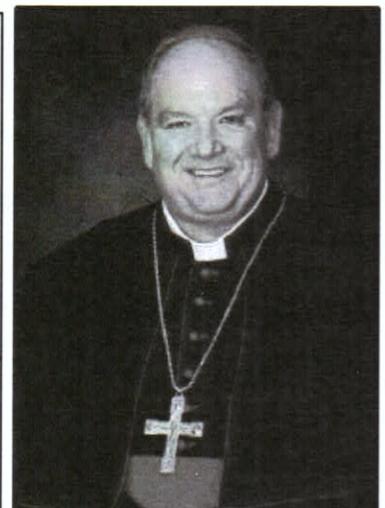
How to make elderberry liqueur
King Kong's Polish Connection

An Interview with Archbishop Hebda Poland, Pittsburgh & St. Paul

Like many third generation Polish Americans, His Excellency Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda did not know enough of his ancestral language to catch the meaning of every word, but he says the conversation is one he very much treasures.

The venue was the Papal Apartments in Rome. The year was 2004, and a then Monsignor Hebda working at the Vatican had flown his father, Bernard Sr., from the United States for dinner with Pope John Paul II. His father, a newspaper press operator from Pittsburgh, and the Holy Father from Wadowice enjoyed a lively talk in Polish about the Church in Hebda's hometown.

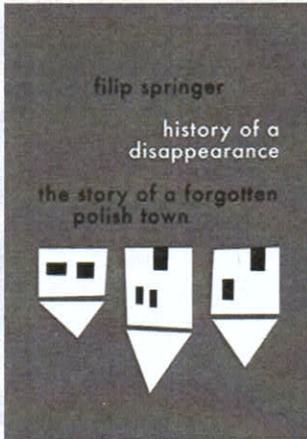
Some 35 years before, in September 1969, a then Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Krakow visited Pittsburgh to celebrate Mass at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church on Polish Hill, a few miles from where the archbishop's grandfather Bronislaw (Bruno) had settled. Bernard Jr. was 10 and an altar boy at Resurrection parish in the Brookline neighborhood. *Continued on pg.7*



The tree in Archbishop Bernard Hebda's Coat of Arms above illustrates his Polish roots. Hebda means elderberry in Polish and the four clusters of berries symbolize prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Fifteen leaves mark Wniebowzięcie Najświętszej Maryi Panny on Aug. 15, a national holiday in Poland.

Mark Your Calendars

Polish Author and Journalist Filip Springer Visits Minneapolis Last weekend in April, early May



Details and location coming soon on pacim.org

Springer's signature work *History of a Disappearance* is the story of Kupferberg/Miedzianka, a small town in Polish Silesia destroyed by pollution and uranium mining during the era of Soviet domination. Decades of neglect and environmental degradation led to the town being declared uninhabitable, and its population was evacuated. Today, it is in ruins. Springer retraces the town's seven centuries of history.



May 4 to 7 RiverCentre, St. Paul

Help us showcase the best that we Polish Americans have to offer— volunteer in our Polish Café kitchen, serve at the counter, help setup or cleanup. Contact Marie Przynski at Przynski@comcast.net or any other board member today to learn more and be part of a great team.

August 11 to 13 Twin Cities Polish Festival



Outdoors at 43 Main St SE, Minneapolis

The Twin Cities Polish Festival is looking for vendors for the festival and volunteers. Preference is given to anything connected to Polish culture, heritage, themes, etc. or operated by Poles/Polish Americans. Go to www.TCPolishFestival.org for more information. Free admission.

Coming this fall. A new PACIM guest speaker series. Watch for details.

Part II -Victor Cordella A Polish architect for all **Taking church design from wood to brick and stone**

In 1904, architect Victor Cordella got his first major Polish church commission in Minnesota— St. Casimir's in St. Paul. First generation Americans arriving from southern Poland, freed from the hardships and bureaucracy of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, wanted a Roman Catholic church to call their own yet remind them of home.

Says Wisconsin historian Geroffrey Gyrisco “this congregation, made up of Poles from Galicia, gradually separated itself from the older and most established parish of St. Adalbert which was dominated by earlier-arriving Poles from Germany.”

“The closest precedent for St Casimir's and subsequent designs by Cordella may be the university church of St. Anne, the finest achievement of the later Baroque in Krakow. It has a similar basilica plan with a barrel-vaulted nave and side elevations featuring half-round lunette windows set between pilasters,” Gyrisco adds.

Cordella started his architectural career at Cass Gilbert's firm in St. Paul a few years before the famed architect of the Minnesota State Capitol moved to New York. However, Cordella only stayed there a year, and briefly worked with several other architects before partnering with Christopher Boehme.

While not as architecturally significant as his churches, in 1907, Cordella designed the 112 East Hennepin Ave. building as a tavern for the Minneapolis Brewing Co. (Grain Belt Beer). This two-story yellow brick bar later became part of Nye's Polonaise and its facade will survive as part of the Montage 71-unit apartment complex currently under construction.

That same year – 1907 - Silesian Poles at St. Joseph in Bowerville near St. Cloud asked Cordella to design their church, which features an onion dome tower. Gyrisco believes Cordella's spire tower design was inspired by the Wawel Cathedral Clock Tower, which has statues placed at the four corners. Six years later Silesian German Catholics in Delano commissioned Cordella to design the St. Peter's Church (now part of St. Maximilian Kolbe parish) and year later Cordella designed St. Mary of Czestochowa church in Delano.

“Cordella's churches may be seen as evidence of the creation of a new Polish-American culture.” -Geoffrey Gyrisco, Wisconsin historian

Writes Gyrisco “His designs may have been intended to symbolize a Polish identity that extended beyond the immigrant peasants' original primary identity of locality or region. In Poland, the elites generally paid for the churches and controlled the designs, while in America the parishioners played a major role in organizing a parish, paying for the church, and influencing its design. Although many members of Polish immigrant communities had some familiarity with Poland's monumental churches, most had worshipped in Poland's vernacular (wooden) village churches. They made little effort to preserve this vernacular tradition, however, instead favoring Cordella's monumental masonry churches constructed of industrial materials. Cordella's churches may be seen as evidence of the creation of a new Polish-American culture.”

Cordella's final years were not so monumental. Many of his personal papers appear to have been lost. No photo of him is known to have survived. In April 1930, Cordella lived with his wife Minnie Beckwith at 507 Sheridan Ave N, a 1,305 square foot home off Bassett Creek that they told the U.S. Census at the time was worth \$7,000. Designed in 1926, the property was converted into a duplex that sold for \$18,617 in 2002, Hennepin County records show.

Cordella married at age 47 in October 1918 at Zion Lutheran Church in South Minneapolis. Minnie was 44 at the time, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America records show. They had no children. However, the beauty and legacy of his work has endured. He arrived in Minnesota to find a Central European Catholicism heritage of wood, and left one made of stone and brick.



Rendering of Montage Apartments under construction on Hennepin Ave. Cordella's building is the two-story corner tavern that was part of Nye's Polonaise restaurant.

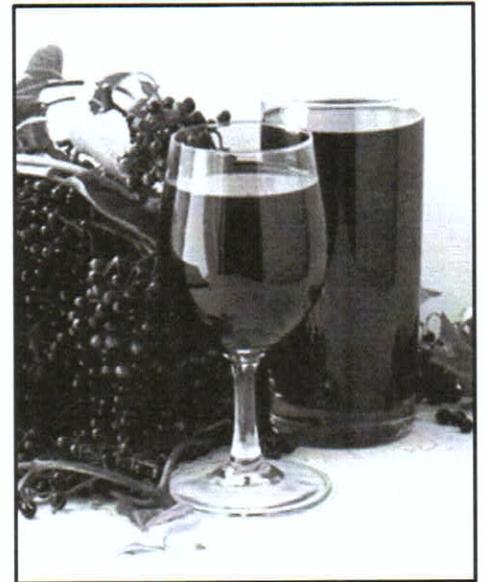
Grown in Minnesota, perfected by Polish tradition

Elderberry Liqueur

Prep Time: 30 days to six months

Ingredients

1 pint elderberries, fresh is better,
fully thaw if using frozen
1 quart Polish vodka
3 one-inch pieces of lemon rind, white pith removed
1/4 to 1/3 cup of sugar



Put elderberries into a quart mason jar and pour over the vodka. Add the lemon rind and make sure the rind has no white pith because it adds bitterness. Seal and put in a dark cupboard for at least a month, and up to six months. The alcohol extracts flavor from the elderberries over time, so the longer it ferments, the darker it gets. When the mixture reaches a color you like, which may vary from Pinot Noir to black, pour the vodka through a strainer lined with cheesecloth into another jar and add sugar. Shake well, do not stir. Put back in the cupboard. After a few days or weeks, the sugar will completely dissolve and your elderberry liqueur is ready to drink. Start the process in the summer and you will have it ready by the first frost. This recipe can also work for mulberries but will likely be sweeter.

Nutrition - 1 cup elderberries

Vitamin C 87%	Calories 106
Vitamin A 17%	Fiber 41%
Iron 13%	Carbohydrates 9%
Calcium 6%	

Source: USDA, recommended daily allowances.

Not all elderberries are equal

When ripe, fresh European black elderberries may range in taste from tart and tangy to bitter. However, the American elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) has slightly sweeter berries. The American elderberry is a shrub that grows 4 to 12 feet tall. It has creamy clusters of tiny star-shaped flowers that become round, purplish-black berries in late summer, early fall. Source: www.extension.umn.edu.

Where can you buy elderberries in Minnesota?

Specialty grocers and supermarkets have elderberry juice. For bulk berries, there is the Midwest Elderberry Cooperative at 171 Cheshire Lane North in Plymouth. The group serves restaurants and packs frozen elderberries in large food grade plastic pails, as well as dried elderberries, elderflowers, elderberry powder and small pack-ages (2 or 5 lb.) of frozen elderberries. Contact info: Natural Kick Farms, naturalkickfarms@gmail.com or 612-418-4624.



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A journey from Columbia Law to canon law

Continued from pg. 1

The Polish community of Pittsburgh of Bernard Jr.'s youth was bustling and several times larger than Northeast Minneapolis. As in the Twin Cities, a generation of Galician and German partition Poles built Catholic and public schools and churches, largely with earnings from the region's steel mills.

Bernard's grandfather Bronislaw was among the steelworkers, arriving at Ellis Island on April 27, 1910 on the S.S. Kronprinz Wilhelm, a four-funnel steamer out of Bremen. He had traveled from Kombornia, a village that today is home to some 1,500 people in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains south of Rzeszow.

In America, Bronislaw met his bride Antoinette from Debno (in the Nowy Tawg area of Poland). Together they raised a family at a corner yellow brick row home in the South Side Flats. One of their children was Bernard Sr., who as an adult worked the night shift to keep the presses rolling at *The Pittsburgh Press*.

In an interview with *PolAm* at the diocese's new Forest Ave. offices at the former 3M corporate headquarters in St. Paul Archbishop Hebda, reflected on his youth, his parents' commitment to faith, his call to religious life and his strong desire build a dialogue with Polish Americans in Minnesota. He fondly recalls that his Irish mom, Helen Clark, enthusiastically embraced Polish cuisine.

"My mother made the best pierogi and gołąbki in the neighborhood," he says.

As a youth, Bernard Jr. said he was introduced to the Catholic faith by the Felician Sisters. He liked to use Necco brand candy as communion wafers while playing church in the family basement, according to an interview with his three siblings on the diocesan website.

After high school, Archbishop Hebda decided against entering St. Paul Seminary in Pittsburgh and enrolled at Harvard University, earning a BA in political science in 1980 followed by a juris doctor from the Columbia University School of Law in 1983, hoping to specialize in international law. He then became an associate at Pittsburgh's largest law firm.

Daniel Bućko danielbucko@gmail.com



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In the early 1980s, going to daily Mass at St. Paul's Chapel (shown above) at Columbia University was part of a path that would lead a law student to St. Paul Seminary, Pittsburgh, and the Cathedral of St. Paul, MN. May 13 will mark one year since Bernard Hebda Jr was installed as archbishop.

While he found secular work enjoyable, the young lawyer said he missed going to daily Mass at school and began to reevaluate the choice of religious life. It was the start of a three-decade long international path that would eventually see him become a priest in Rome and rise to a senior partner on God's advocacy team.

Hebda went to Rome to study canon law and came back to Pittsburgh a few months before Poland was freed from Communism in 1989. Working in multiple pastoral and legal roles both Pittsburgh and Rome over the next decade, he has been back in America since 2009, when he was named a bishop of rural Northern Michigan (Diocese of Gaylord) in 2009 and four years later Coadjutor Bishop of Newark (NJ).

On March 24 of last year, Pope Francis named him to oversee the diocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis — 188 parishes and a flock of 285,000 — a diocese that says it has raised about \$155 million in asset sales, including property on Cathedral Hill in St. Paul, as part of a plan to help bring it out of bankruptcy court.

At 57, the same age that Cardinal Wojtyla was elected Pope, Archbishop Hebda faces the workload of a *Fortune* 500 CEO and the constant public scrutiny of a governor. Still, he maintains an active interest in his Polish roots, taking time out at the Carpathian Festival in St. Paul in February to visit exhibits, including PACIM's, and quietly mingle with the crowd. Seven years ago he said he traveled to Kombornia and Debno in Poland to rediscover his family's heritage.

In Minnesota, Hebda says he enjoys interacting with the Polish community here — from little things like looking for *paczki* in Northeast Minneapolis the weekend after Fat Thursday (but finding them sold out) — to addressing important issues such the challenges faced by recent Polish immigrants, to building a positive appreciation and understanding of the role that faith has played in culture for Polish-Americans.

Our Carpathian Festival booth attracted many cultures

PACIM's mission focuses on promoting Polish arts and culture more than genealogy research, but we believe it is interesting to learn people's stories about their origins and/or travels.

So back in February, we asked visitors to our display booth at this year's Carpathian Festival at the Landmark Center in St. Paul to place a sticker on the map of the Carpathian Mountains shown at the right.

More than three dozen people left comments. Some two-thirds of commenters were folks from outside the current borders of Poland, including Ukraine, Slovakia, Romania, the Czech Republic, Moldova, Hungary and Slovenia. The mix of our festival visitors also reflected the many cultures within Poland, including Ruthenians, Lemkos, and four generations of Polish-Americans.

More folks to added thoughts at the Polish-Hungarian Friendship Day, and we plan to display our Carpathian origins map again at the Festival of Nations. We'd like to do more to build this Twin Cities quilt of connections.

You can help PACIM create more multi-cultural topographical maps for regions such as Silesia, Pomerania, Kashubia or pre-1939 eastern Poland. If you have on-line map-making skills you would like to volunteer, PACIM would love your help. Send *PolAm's* editor an e-mail or call.



Facts about the Carpathian Mountains

High point: 8,711 ft. *Gerlach Peak*, Slovakia
 Most brown bears, wolves and lynx in Europe
 Source of water for Poland's Vistula River

Building connections in Krakow and Rzeszow

Continued from pg. 1

Spent the next day relaxing, visiting some of my haunts from my youth and noticing how many places had changed. The next day I met with friends, for coffee and beers and just took in the sites and sounds of a city I don't think I'll ever tire of.

I also had a meeting with the Director of the Underground Museum in Krakow. We discussed several possibilities of PACIM sponsoring displays from Poland to Minnesota and other states. It's a work in progress, but hopefully, with a joint effort we will make it happen.

In Rzeszow, I met with a gallery operator and a few artists to see the feasibility of bringing back our artist exchange program back to life. There are a lot of possibilities, but it takes time, money and planning. Things look promising in this area also. If any PACIM member is willing to assist on these projects, please contact me. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Back in Warsaw, the change to the skyline is noticeable now that the Warsaw Spire office tower is completed. At night, messages scroll across its façade. The Rotunda bank is under reconstruction. It stands as a skeleton of iron girders. My understanding is that the new building will remain round. Stare Miasto (Old Town) in Warsaw still holds its charm and quaintness.

I have now travelled to Poland over 20 times since my first trip in 1977. There are still a lot of things I have yet to see and experience. It constantly amazes me how things remain so familiar, yet there is constant change. I know I will keep returning to the land of my forefathers and will keep discovering new experiences.

The day after my return, PACIM, along with the Minnesota Hungarians celebrated Polish-Hungarian Friendship Day. Guests sampled Polish beers and Hungarian wines and desserts from both countries. We were entertained by the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers and The Ethnic Dance Theater, who demonstrated Hungarian dancing. Guests also had the opportunity to learn Hungarian dance. Plans are already being discussed for next year's event.

Festival of Nations will soon be here. Both the Café and the Cultural display booth need volunteers. Please check on line at www.pacim.org and sign up for a few hours at this great event. Online, you will also see upcoming events and notifications. Please feel free to send any ideas and suggestions that you may have for the organization.

Respectfully,

Your President

Merian Cooper:

The Polish war hero who created *King Kong*

The supersize primate and star of the recent movie *Kong: Skull Island* evolved from a character first created in 1933 by an Oscar winning movie director who is one of both Poland's and America's foremost war heroes.

In his memoirs, former Twin Cities news writer Merian Cooper said he got the idea for the New York skyscraper-climbing ape in a dream one night. A Florida native, Cooper was a man with a consistent knack for pursuing his dreams. His life of courage and loyalty endeared him to a generation of Poles after Poland regained its independence in 1918 and triumphed against Soviet invasion in August 1920.

In the original movie, Cooper plays the biplane pilot whose machine gun fells the violent Kong from atop the Empire State Building. In real life, Cooper was a highly decorated aviator for the United States in both world wars, and co-founder of the Kosciuszko Squadron for Poland, which flew 250 fighter missions in the Polish-Soviet War. He became a prisoner of war twice, and the second time escaped and became one of the few Americans to earn to earn Poland's highest military honor, the *Militari Virtuti*.

So despised was Cooper by the Soviets that after the Communists took over Poland's government following World War II, they sought out and destroyed copies of Cooper's films.

Cooper's service to Poland began with efforts to relieve famine in war torn parts of the former Austria-Hungarian Empire. In early 1919, he was put in charge of food distribution in Lviv, a city devastated by Russian invasion, initially in August 1914. Seeing new threats from Moscow, he wrote to Polish military commander Józef Piłsudski, requesting a move to frontline duty.

"I found Lvov (Lviv) was indeed a town starving, (yet) the Polish inhabitants' spirit unbroken" Cooper said at the time.

An article about Cooper on the Hoover Institution's website in California says "that letter embodies Cooper's romantic spirit of adventure and sacrifice; in it he recalls his direct ancestor's service in

Pulaski's death in the cause of American independence at the siege of Savannah in 1779." (His great grandfather Col. John Cooper of the Continental Army during the American Revolution carried a mortally wounded Pulaski off the Georgia battlefield in his arms).

In personal correspondence archived at Hoover, an affiliate of Stanford University, Cooper tells how he convinced a skeptical Piłsudski of his sincerity when the two men met for the first time.

"I jumped to my feet and told him I would accept no promotion in rank until I earned it in battle, and that I would never accept one cent over and above what a Polish officer received. The fiery, piercing eyes of the Marshal looked at me for a second; then he stood and clasped my hand," Cooper wrote.

Cooper was then sent to Paris to recruit a group of U.S. combat pilots. Cooper and the Kosciuszko Squadron, named for Gen. Tadeusz Kosciuszko, attacked and damaged Soviet cavalry assaulting Warsaw in August 1920, according to a Soviet chronicler of that campaign, Isaak Babel, the Hoover website says. Cooper was shot down twice, captured, barely escaped being executed, and eventually spent nine months in Soviet captivity. He managed to escape, along with two Polish officers, hop freight trains and walk 400 miles in 11 days to safety in Latvia.

Cooper died in California on April 21, 1973 at age 82 after a long Hollywood career that included a move-making partnership with famed director John Ford, pioneering the development of technicolor film and U.S. military service in World War II. Cooper's son, Maciej Słomczyński, was a writer in Poland who translated *Ulysses*, *Gulliver's Travels* and Shakespeare into Polish.



Above: Merian Cooper in his Polish Air Force uniform. One of his first jobs after college was a Minneapolis newspaper reporter. Below, a model of the biplane flown by the Kosciuszko Squadron in 1920.

Films of Merian Cooper

King Kong, 1933 original
The Last Days of Pompeii
The Quiet Man *
She Wore a Yellow Ribbon *
Fort Apache *; *The Searchers* *
Wagon Master *
Mighty Joe Young; *She*
 *Co-produced with John Ford

More Career Highlights

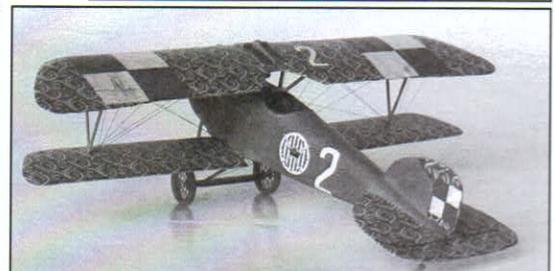
- World War I bomber pilot
- Co-founder, Pan Am Airways
- Logistics officer, 1942 Doolittle raid over Japan
- Flying Tigers pilot, China

Sources/Further Reading

Cotta Vaz, Mark *Living Dangerously: The Adventure of Merian C. Cooper, Creator of King Kong* (2005).

Cisek, Janusz *Kosciuszko, We Are Here!* (2002)

Karolevitz, Robert F. & Fenn, Ross S. *Flight of the Eagle* (1974)



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