



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BY EDWARD J. RAJTAR

Witam!

If you aren't lucky enough to be able to leave for a break from the winter weather, there are several ways to warm up your winter!

One great opportunity is to sample the gracious hospitality of the multiple cultures of the Carpathian Mountains at the 2nd Annual Carpathian Festival in downtown St. Paul. To be held on February 19 from 1pm to 5pm at the Landmark Center, the festival offers delicious hot food, beautiful crafts, and exciting musical and dance performances.

If you need to keep to that New Year's resolution about more exercise, what better way than burning up the dance floor at the Bal Karnawalowy on February 25 at the St. Paul Hotel! This will be PACIM's 13th annual Bal with exceptional food and dancing guaranteed to keep you warm. There will be a silent auction and the popular 'Wall of Wine' Raffle. Winning that would warm anyone's heart! I'm hoping that you come and join in the festivities.

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Meet Bruno Silikowski

The Polish engineer behind Chanhassen's auto village

By Mark Dillon

A long, hard winding path to freedom for the family of Minnesota AutoMotorPlex™ entrepreneur Bruno (Bronislaw) Silikowski began on two roads in Poland.

First Jozef, his father, a soldier in the Polish Army, was captured by the Red Army in Vilnius as the Soviets invaded Poland in 1939. The 20-year-old would escape from Siberia only to be captured by the Germans when they invaded the Soviet Union two years later. The Nazis put Jozef to work digging mass graves until he lost half a hand to a grenade.

Meanwhile, Bruno's mother, Anastasia Webrowa, would also become a prisoner of war in the summer of 1941 when the Germans captured Kornie, a small Polish village near the Ukrainian border. Anastasia and her sister fled from the village only to be hunted down in a nearby forest.

Jozef and Anastasia would meet many months later some 1600 kilometers to the west at a POW camp in Koblenz, Germany, where they respectively worked as a house servant and a chauffeur for German officers. In the worst of circumstances, the couple fell in love, married at the end of the war, and awaited an opportunity to emigrate.

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Bruno Silikowski and a school poster that his daughter Katherine created about the family's journey from Europe and history.

Mark Your Calendars

Feb. 23 Tłusty Czwartek

This year Fat Thursday, the last Thursday before Lent, is a bit later. Easter Sunday is not until April 16. Tłusty Czwartek is a day for eating, when people meet in homes or cafés with friends and relatives and consume large quantities of sweets, then dance and party until Ash Wednesday. Paczki top the list in Poland, with about 1 billion doughnuts made and filled with fruit, notably rose jam or plum. Cream varieties have evolved in the U.S. In Polish, the last three days before the start of Lent are called kuse dni, miesopust, ostatki or podkoziolatek. Traditionally during this time in Krakow, flower vendors and women dress in costumes and barhop, accompanied by a musician and a straw figure or combra. Upon reaching the Cloth Hall in the Market Square, the straw figure gets torn apart. In rural villages, men traditionally dressed in animal costumes and did a "home crawl", dancing and getting food and drink from each homeowner along the way. Tłusty Czwartek is not to be confused with Fat or Shrove Tuesday, whose cultural origins are also English, Portuguese and Spanish. Italians celebrate both days (Giovedì Grasso and Martedì Grasso). Greek Orthodox Catholics celebrate Tsiknopempti, which means Thursday of the Smoke of Grilled Meat.



REGISTRATION

DEADLINE FEB. 18

Feb. 25

Bal Karnawalowy

The Saint Paul Hotel, 350 Market St., St. Paul

5:30pm Cocktails and Silent Auction (Donations welcome!), 7pm Dinner

8:30pm Donor and Community Recognition Program

9pm to midnight Dancing, Music of Chris Kalogerson Band

Cost: \$65 per person. Learn more at pacim.org and our Facebook page

Highlighting the Bal are awards recognizing strong contributors to the work of PACIM and the Twin Cities Polish Communities. Each year, PACIM honors individuals and groups who excel in promoting and supporting efforts to preserve Polish culture and heritage, thereby enriching society with the best of Polish traditions and ideals.

March 23 Polish Hungarian Friendship Day

6:30-9pm

International Institute of Minnesota 1694 Como Ave., St Paul
PACIM is pleased to unite with Minnesota's Hungarian community to celebrate our shared cultural heritage. No event charge. Free will offering. Polish beer. Hungarian wine. Sweets of both countries.



It's Kulig Outside

Dashing through the snow in a multi-horse open sleigh is a centuries-old Polish tradition. It began as a festive winter "manor crawl" among the nobility. Now Kulig rides are held not only in Poland at places such as Ojcow National Park north of Krakow but also in Ontario, Canada and Buffalo, N.Y. Go to poloniainmusic.com/Kulig.html to see a Polish Family Day Kulig in Niagra Falls, Ontario. In Minnesota, one can enjoy horse-drawn sleigh rides in Waconia, Annadale or Andover.



Library: New Year, New Acquisitions, Cultural Honorees

PACIM Library has made the following recent acquisitions to its 5,000 volume collection:

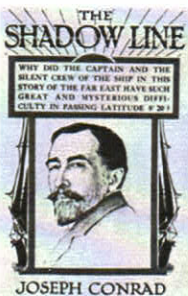
<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Witold Szablowski,	Sprawiedliwi zdrajcy	(Polish & Ukrainian history)
Magdalena Parys	Biała Rika	(fiction)
Katja Kettu	Akuszerka	(romance)
Marek Hłasko	Wilk	(fiction)
Lucyna Olejniczak	Matylda	(fiction, women's literature)
Bogna Ziembicka	Wiosna w Różanach	(fiction, women's literature)
Bartosz Michalak, Wajda	Kronika Wypadkow Filmowych	(biography)

New DVDs

Moje córki krowy (2015) A father loses control over his family after his wife becomes ill.

Miś (1980) A reflection of contemporary Polish society with lots of surreal humor

Na granicy (2016) A father and his sons find a trip to a mountain cabin turns into a struggle for survival



Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski, better known as Joseph Conrad, was the son of Siberian deportees. He wrote in English and this year Poland is commemorating his achievements along with those of other giants of Polish culture and history. This March marks 100th anniversary of book publication of Conrad's sea tale *The Shadow Line*, first published in the U.S. in a New York magazine. Conrad was the author of many renowned novels, including *Lord Jim*, *Heart of Darkness* and *The Secret Agent*. The 160th anniversary of his birth is Dec. 3, 2017.

Other honorees in Poland this year are Adam Chmielowski, Tadeusz Kościuszko, Honorat Koźmiński, Józef Piłsudski, and the Wisła river. Look for a *PolAm* feature on Polish architects and engineers since Kościuszko this spring. The U.S. Revolutionary War hero, engineer of West Point and Polish patriot lived from 1746 to 1817. He led the 1794 Polish insurrection against Russia and Prussia and, in his will, donated his estate to secure freedom for African-American slaves.

Spoczywaj w Pokoju - Richard Adams 1920-2016

Did you know that the late Richard Adams' novel *Watership Down* has a 2005 version in Polish - *Wodnikowe Wzgórze*? The trek that a group of rabbits take is a story of migration to a new homeland after their warren is destroyed, finding one's place in a community and escape from a dictator (rabbit General Woundwort). Adams died on Christmas Eve.



Rzepa (turnips) - Low in calories, high in symbolism

Below are recipes for bread from World War I and a modern turnip hot dish.

Serving suggestion: a turnip casserole or an edible bread can be a meatless way to remember the hardships and sacrifices of Poles who survived the harshest of winters 100 years ago.

Kriegsbrot (war bread) 1914 Central Powers military recipe

3.5 cups of rye flour
3 cups unbleached wheat flour
½ cup cocoa
2 packs of active dry yeast
1 tbsp caraway seeds
2 teaspoon salt
½ cup honey or brown sugar
2 tbsps each vegetable oil and butter



1916-1918 Turnip Bread recipe - German Food Providing Ministry (civilian)

- ◆ Substitute sawdust, turnips (20% each), leaves and straw (10%) for flour (Don't try this at home.)
- ◆ Substitute beets for cocoa, honey and sugar; no butter or caraway seeds, add more salt.

Preparation: Mix both flours, cocoa, caraway seed and salt in large bowl. Mix 2 cups of water, honey or brown sugar, and butter in a sauce pan and heat until dissolved. Cool slightly and add yeast. Mix ingredients in the large bowl and add vegetable oil to cover dough ball. Knead. Let the dough rest in a warm place and cover it. Grease and flour baking sheet. Once the dough rises (at least 2 hours) punch it down and knead it again to get the air out. Roll into a ball and flatten slightly to a height of about 2 ½ inches. () Lightly brush to top with oil. Let set until it rises again (1-2 hours)

Bake w/o pan at 400 degrees for 20-25 minutes or until done Makes one loaf about 1 kilo in weight

Turnip Bake Hot Dish

2 medium turnips, peeled and cubed, 4 tablespoons butter, 2 eggs,
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour, 1 tablespoon brown sugar, 3 teaspoons
baking powder, ¾ teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon pepper, dash ground
nutmeg, ½ cup dry bread crumbs

Preheat oven to 375°. Place turnips in a small saucepan and cover with water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 10-12 minutes or until tender. Drain. In a small bowl, combine turnips, 2 tablespoons butter and eggs. Combine flour, brown sugar, baking powder, salt, pepper, nutmeg; add to turnips and mix well. Transfer to a greased 8-in.-square baking dish. Melt remaining butter; toss with bread crumbs. Sprinkle over top. Bake, uncovered, 25-30 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Makes 8 servings.



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Recalling The Turnip Winter of 1916-17

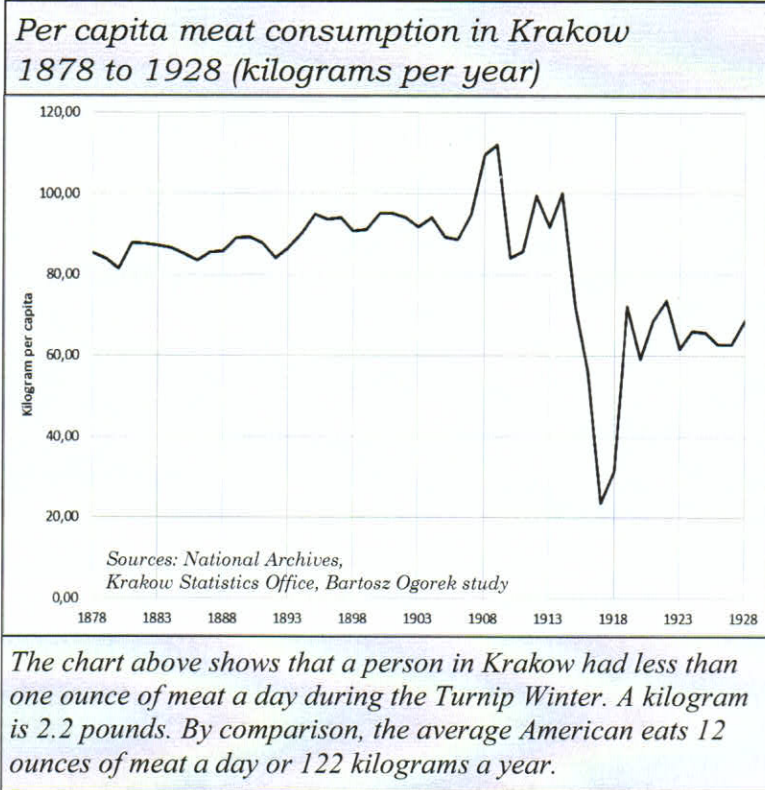
In a modern kitchen, turnips can provide flavor for a winter vegetable hot dish or a complement to a soup or stew. However, 100 years ago in Poland during World War I, turnips were a root of bitterness.

In the former German, Austrian-Hungarian and Russian partitions during the winter of 1916-1917, turnips were the a food of last resort. The reasons were multiple, including a failure of the potato crop, logistical bottlenecks, a British naval blockade of wheat imports from a then-neutral United States and military confiscation of civilian supplies.

A rainy autumn in Central Europe caused potatoes to rot, and cut the harvest to half of what it had been the prior year. Then a very cold winter (temperatures were like Minnesota this season) led to a coal shortage, so that many potatoes spoiled in stationary railcars pulled by coal-burning-locomotives.

Municipal leaders turned to turnips. Up until then, turnips were seen as more fit for pigs than humans, a less nutritious cousin to potatoes. Turnips were plentiful because the year before 9 million pigs were slaughtered to feed troops and conserve resources. At the same time, by 1917, meat consumption in southern Poland fell by 80% (See line chart).

Without wheat from the U.S. or from western/central Ukraine (then the Austrian-Hungary's empire's Galicia province, damaged by the August 1914 Russian invasion), rye and potato flour, then turnips, and finally sawdust and ground turnip leaves, became major ingredients for bread. (See recipe on pg. 4). Consumers also paid more for less. In Krakow, the price of potatoes rose five-fold and the price of flour 15-fold between the start of the war and February 1917. Mass hunger demonstrations took place in the city beginning in March 1917, and beginning in April 1917, a five-day long riot began at a food market in the north of the city. Shoppers accused storekeepers of hoarding and ethnic favoritism.



Food was so short 100 years ago that hunger riots broke out in Poland.

As government-mandated bread recipes got worse, malnutrition increased. A post-war study of Krakow school records by Polish history professor Bartosz Ogórek found that the average height of teenage boys of the World War I period fell as much as 10 centimeters (about four inches) compared to pre-1900 heights.

Over the years historians have written a lot about the dire plight of German civilians during World War I. In fact, more than 424,000 people died of malnutrition and the region's weakened immune systems may have been a factor in the 1918 global influenza epidemic (Source: Carnegie Endowment for Peace).

Continued on pg. 6

Break the ice with winter festivals

Polak, Węgier - dwa bratanki,
i do szabl, i do szklanki



Lengyel, Magyar - két jó barát,
Együtt harcol s' issza borát

Polish - Hungarian Friendship Day
March 23rd 2017

Continued from pg. 1

PACIM is excited to join hands with the **Minnesota Hungarians** in co-sponsoring for the first time, the **“Warmth of Friendship”** to celebrate Polish Hungarian Friendship Day on March 23. Celebrated in Poland, Hungary, Canada and elsewhere, this event is scheduled at the International Institute of Minnesota from 6:30-9:00 pm. Make new friends. Sample Hungarian wine and Polish beer. Indulge in pastries from both countries. Learn why this day exists and what our two cultures have shared in common for nine centuries. We think you will enjoy the entertainment and cultural displays. The event is free. Good will donations will be accepted to help offset costs.

Easter is late this year – April 16. Hopefully spring weather comes sooner. We are planning to have some classes related to the Easter holidays; egg decorating, palm braiding, maybe some baking classes. Go to our website and Facebook page for confirmation of specific events and details.

In an effort to save costs, we have successfully negotiated a new one-year lease at Riverplace at more favorable terms. This will give us some additional time to evaluate potential new locations. If anyone is interested in helping us find that ‘new home’ or knows of a suitable place, please let us know.

If you have any ideas for programs or classes that you’d like to see, or possibly organize, please contact PACIM at 612-378-9291 or send an email to Office@pacim.org. Also, please feel free to volunteer for any of the events. We always enjoy the interactions we have with our membership at various events. Check out the website and like us on Facebook. Get involved, share our culture! *Trzymajcie się ciepło!*

Poland’s Turnip Winter

Continued from pg. 5

However, the food shortage situation may have been even worse in Poland, where the Austrian-Hungarian government would eventually collapse and the retreating Russians implemented a scorched-earth policy. Polish areas got only 2/3 of the rations that German civilians were given, and authorities in some areas imposed the death penalty for folks caught stealing food.

Writes Ogorek: “Like any major city, Krakow was not self-sufficient on the eve of the war; most of the food was transported from the surrounding area as well as two specific directions – the border districts of the Kingdom of Poland and Eastern Galicia. According to estimates by the civic authorities and the Office of Trade and Industry, over 30% of all milk and potato supplies came from the Kingdom of Poland (Russian partition), and almost all of beef cattle was shipped from Galicia and Bukovina by way of the Lviv-Krakow railway line. Due to the closing of the city, military operations in Galicia (and) restrictions on civilian movement by rail, Krakow faced far greater supply problems than cities located deeper within the Empire.”

According to a post-war analysis by University of London physiologist Ernest Starling, in 1917-1918, the average person in German-occupied territory ate less than 1500 calories per day. Starling says that food shortages caused the average civilian's body weight to drop by as much as 15-20% by the end of 1917.

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To view a related video, see *Starving For Total War - Turnip Winter 1916—A Great War Series Special* by Indy Neidell on You Tube https://youtu.be/n_x8MctdDBo

Turnips vs. Potatoes		
A Nutritional Comparison		
1 medium serving, % of USDA daily allowances		
	Turnip	Potato
Calories	34	163
Protein	1.1 grams	4.3 grams
Carbohydrates	8%	12%
Vitamin C	42%	70%
Vitamin B-6	5%	30%
Potassium	6%	25%
Magnesium	3%	12%

Source: Wikipedia, U.S. Dept of Agriculture

Passion, process provide keys to car condo success

Continued from pg. 1

Jozef also used the time to master seven languages, including Portuguese, which came in handy as the Silikowskis got a chance to leave Europe for Brazil before finally resettling in 1957 in the historically Polish and Lemko Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland, Ohio.

“They could have waited another six months and gone direct to the U.S., but my father didn’t want to wait,” Bruno says.

Kindness, a strong love of education and making the most of life by hard work are the values that Bruno says his parents, who became a tailor and a seamstress, instilled in him. These values would lead the 58-year-old to career and life paths in Plymouth, MN, where he has lived with his wife, Diane, for the past 20 years, and raised three children.

“I do not idle well” the owner of 4 Porsches and a vintage Mustang says. “I like working hard.” Upon earning a Masters Degree in Systems Engineering from Ohio State University, Bruno gave up a promising career in computer integrated manufacturing in the mid 1980s at General Motors, where he had earned a GM Fellowship, to take a business systems management job with Andersen Consulting.

This year will mark two decades since Andersen asked him to move to Minnesota to start Minneapolis’s Manufacturing/Supply Chain Practice. He had always been a car collector but said he never had enough space to keep them properly. Bruno came up with the idea for the 146-unit AutoMotorPlex™, a first-of-its-kind auto collector condo complex, and found a site in Chanhassen.

“We wanted to create a country club for car owners to meet and enjoy their passion. These are urban cabins. You just can’t live in them,” he says. Bruno’s passion for cars began as a child polishing the chrome and fenders every week on his Dad’s Catalina and Tempest.



Bruno wanted the layout of the 40-acre, 800+ car AutoMotorPlex™, 8150 Audubon Road, to have the look and feel of a European village, with the clubhouse angled and centrally located like a market. This year, a second car complex is that is 25% larger will open in Medina.

“I polished the paint so hard once the paint came off,” he says.

Not far from the Twin Cities Arboretum, Bruno has leveraged his business acumen to create an automotive oasis from the passionless world of driverless cars, endless road construction, delayed buses and Twin Cities winter gridlock. In nearly spotless garages, vintage car condo owners’ personalities emerge in each highly customized unit’s decor, providing a celebration of horsepower, automotive design history and creativity as confident as a winged Hussar.

Owners include a senior Target executive who has decked out his unit in trademark company red and white, and a wide range of collectors from unique movie vehicles such as the Scooby Doo van, a Batmobile, early Model T Fords and an early 1940s RV to the latest Lamborghinis. Many units have themes such as Route 66.

Since selling out the complex’s first section in 2007 and a second section in 2013, Bruno has fielded calls from prospective developers who want to replicate the concept in new locations such as Dubai, Australia, Hong Kong, Hungary, Germany and Canada. However, he says he is proceeding cautiously to maintain consistency and quality. He is opening a second, larger complex off Highway 55 in Medina later this year.

“I started out wanting more space. I ended up building a brand” he says. “We have learned from both our success and our mistakes.”

The Silikowski family commitment to lifelong education is as passionate as car collecting. This May all of his children, Katherine, 24, and twins Christine and William, 21 as well as Diane, will simultaneously earn degrees in law, marketing, finance and nursing, respectively. A Notre Dame economics graduate, Diane had always wanted to become a nurse, and decided to pursue an RN.

“It is so important to learn how to learn,” Bruno says. “My parents were denied an education. We were given an opportunity.”

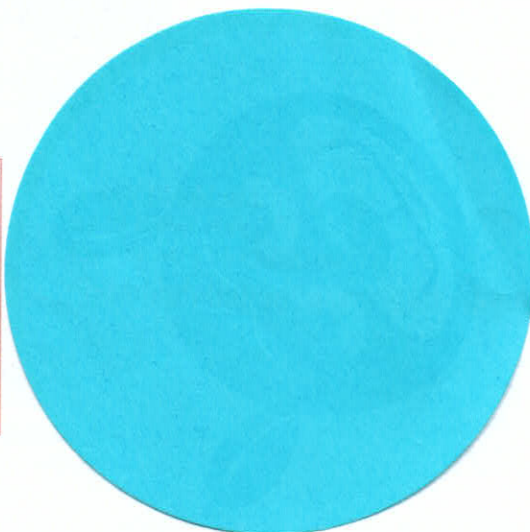


The owner of four Porsches sports his Polish Race Car Drivers of America cap. Bruno’s first car was a white 1967 Volkswagen Beetle. His Dad, a tailor from Vilnius, drove Pontiacs.

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“There should be a united, independent, and autonomous Poland, and that henceforth inviolable security of life, of worship, and of industrial and social development should be guaranteed to all peoples who have lived hitherto under the power of governments devoted to a faith and purpose hostile to their own.” - *U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, speech to U.S. Senate, Jan 22, 1917*



4 190



Renewing and New Member Honor Roll

November 2016 to Jan. 15, 2017

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Household/Friends Elizabeth Curiskis, Paul Wojda, Marlene Steidler, Brent Skaja, Anthony Budziszewski

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