



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

BY

EDWARD J. RAJTAR

Sto Lat! Pani Ada Dziewanowska turned age 100 in February.

Greetings everyone!

By the time this edition of the *PolAm* reaches you, the karnawał season will be over. I was pleased and honored to attend the Bal Maskowy in Milwaukee the weekend of Feb. 11. Syrena, Milwaukee's Polish Folk Dance Group, hosted the event and honored Ada Dziewanowska on her 100th Birthday. The hall was filled with many guests and well-wishers, for a wonderful lady who is still young and vibrant! Her longtime friend Stas Kmiec of New York and Syrena staged a tribute to her life, from her youth and leaving Poland, to residing in the Boston area and working with the Krakowiak dancers from Boston for several years and then moving to Milwaukee and working with Syrena. It was executed wonderfully. Pani Ada also worked with the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers in 1976 and created their first suite of dances. I was simply amazed at her vitality as she sang and danced throughout the evening's festivities!

Our Bal Karnawałowy was held at the St. Paul Hotel. I hope everyone who attended enjoyed themselves.

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Victor Cordella

A Polish Architect for All

For three decades, Polish architect Victor Cordella (Wiktor Kordela) of Minneapolis built his American dream by helping Twin Cities immigrants from Central Europe express unique Carpathian identities in stone and brick.

The Krakow- and Lviv-educated Cordella immigrated to the U.S. in 1893 and created a Polish church design legacy that includes Holy Cross Church in Minneapolis, St. Casimir's in St. Paul, St. Peter's and St. Mary of Czestochowa in Delano, St. Joseph's in Browerville, and Our Lady of Lourdes in Little Falls.

Unusual for his time, Cordella also quietly worked across ethnicities, helping the Slovaks, the Ruthenians, the Ukrainians and the Russians each design churches in Minneapolis and elsewhere to reflect distinct motifs and traditions of Greek and Orthodox Catholicism.

However, the Cordella's extensive body of religious and commercial work hasn't gotten the level of Minnesota recognition it would seem to deserve. *Continued on pg. 6*



One of Cordella's works is the copper-domed, historically Slovak St. Cyril & Methodius Church in Minneapolis. His architecture gave voice to the cultural identity of multiple Eastern and Latin Rite Catholic nationalities.

Mark Your Calendars

March 23

Polish Hungarian Friendship Day 6:30-9pm

International Institute of Minnesota 1694 Como Ave., St Paul

PACIM will unite with *Minnesota Hungarians* to celebrate our shared heritage. No event charge. Free will offering. Polish beer. Hungarian wine. Sweets of both countries.



April 13 to 29

36th Annual Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival

The 3 Polish films below are included this year. Watch for show times on pacim.org and Facebook.



Afterimage

A biopic of avant-garde painter Wladyslaw Strzeminski, Polish director Andrzej Wajda's final film, and that country's official entry to the 2016 Academy Awards. See photo at left.

The High Frontier

A border guard takes his teenage sons to a cabin on the Polish border. He hopes to bond with them, but a man emerges from the forest, pushing the family to its breaking point.

Memories of Summer

Twelve year old Piotr's life disintegrates piece by piece when his father is away on business during an endless summer in the 1970s.



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 today to be part of a great team.



August 11 to 13

Twin Cities Polish Festival

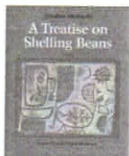
Outdoors at 43 Main St SE, Minneapolis

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.

Art class and acquisitions at PACIM Library

PACIM Library has made the following recent acquisitions. Two are highlighted below.

A Treatise on Shelling Beans by Wiesław Myśliwski (2007)



Wiesław Myśliwski is the author of 10 novels, three of which have been translated into English. He is twice the winner of the Nike Literary Award (for *The Horizon* in 1996 and *A Treatise on Shelling Beans* in 2007). His novels "deal with the identities of province and its inhabitants in times of historical change. In *A Treatise on Shelling Beans* the narrator, the ageing caretaker of cottages at a summer resort recalls his life to a mysterious stranger who pays him a visit.

Prąd zatokowy by Jerzy Sosnowski (2003)



Jerzy Sosnowski, 54, is a writer, teacher, radio journalist and newspaper contributor. In the early 1990s he was very active and highly influential as a literary critic and publicist. *Prąd zatokowy* is thought-provoking and teeming with metaphysical investigations taking place in modern Warsaw. The protagonist is an intellectual in mourning after the death of his beloved wife.

Title and Author

Subject

<i>Artystka wędrowna</i> by Monika Szwaja (2005)	women's literature
<i>Osiolkim</i> by Andrzej Stasiuk (2016)	travel essays
<i>Institut</i> by Jakub Żulczyk (2016)	fiction
<i>Cień wiatru</i> by Carlos Ruiz Zafon (2013)	fiction

Workshop Series - *Art is a Living Thing*

Artists learned the Zalipie painting technique to craft floral designs for planters, birdhouses, jewelry boxes and plates at PACIM Library on January 29.



New on CD...

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Spoczywaj w Pokoju Stanislaw Skrowaczewski

Beloved conductor Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, who led the Minnesota Orchestra for nearly two decades, died Feb. 21. He was 93 and a longtime PACIM patron. Born Oct. 2, 1923, in Lviv, Skrowaczewski began studying piano and violin at age 4; by age 7, he had composed his first work for orchestra. As conductor of the Warsaw's National Philharmonic Orchestra, he and his wife Krystyna came to the U.S. in 1959, and lived in Wayzata. Two of his compositions, *Passacaglia Immaginaria* and his Concerto for Orchestra, were short-listed for a Pulitzer Prize. He was a guest conductor at many the world's most famous orchestras, including the New York and Berlin Philharmonics.

Like icons, Polskie Pisanki are written

The word pisanka is derived from the Polish verb 'pisać' which in contemporary Polish means 'to write'. Internationally recognized Minneapolis artist and pisanki writer John Rajtar explains that hand decorating of eggs is not only an Easter tradition, but symbolic of humanity's relationship to nature.

"The ancient art form of pisanki is inspired by nature, and is steeped in tradition. The peasants of Poland revered and respected their environment. The unpredictability of nature and the changing seasons brought a sense of fear, along with anticipation for what was to come. The egg was seen as a symbol, which brought life, aided in ancient spring fertility rites, and served as a protector against evil eye, fire and lightning," John says. "I am a purist, using the old method: a wooden handled metal funnel filled with beeswax, which is melted under a candle flame. The melted wax is my pencil. The egg is my canvas."

Daniel Bućko danielbucko@gmail.com

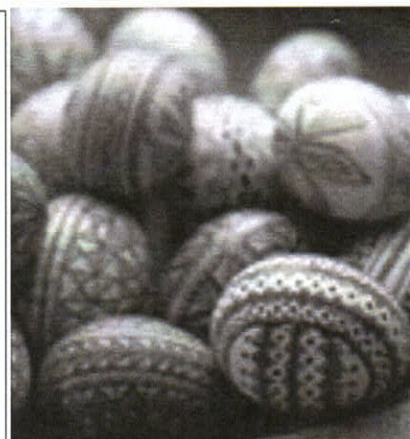


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Hand-decorated eggs come in many colors and designs. From the top right: Polish pisanki, Ukrainian pysanky, Slovak kraslica, Romanian ouă vopsite, Lithuanian marguiti, Hungarian hímestojás and Czech kraslice.



A Silesian Superbowl

The 737-year-old Polish community of Zagan 165 kilometers west of Wroclaw in Silesia made it to the Superbowl in February via game time advertisements.

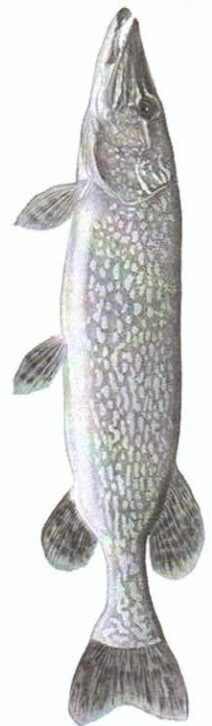


Using satellite technology, car maker Hyundai connected U.S. 4th Infantry Division troops to the Patriots vs. Falcons game, as well as soldiers' family members. Some 4,000 U.S. soldiers have been garrisoned at Polish bases in Zagan, Boleslawiec, Swietoszow and Skwierzyna since mid- January as part of NATO's Operation Atlantic Resolve launched in response to Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea.

A historical footnote: During the World War II, Zagan was the site of German Stalag Luft III, the Allied POW camp that became the basis of the 1963 movie *The Great Escape*. It is also the city where astronomer Johannes Kepler lived at the end of his life. Kepler built on the work of Copernicus and demonstrated the elliptical motion of planets' orbits around the sun.

Masuria y Minnesota Northern Pike with Sauce Szczpak z Polskim Sosem

1 medium Northern Pike
2 cups white wine
1 cup white wine vinegar
1/4 tablespoon saffron
1/2 cup raisins or huckleberries
1 tablespoon butter
1 tablespoon wheat flour
1 tablespoon sugar



Clean and cut fresh fish in filets or sections. Place in saucepan with wine, vinegar, saffron and fruit and simmer slowly for 30 minutes. Cream flour with melted butter. When smooth add to saucepan and bring to a boil. Carefully remove fish and serve with sauce.

Recipe source: *Treasured Polish Recipes for Americans* ©1948 Polanie Publishing Co.

The Fish of Kings

Did you know that in Poland, the Northern Pike has historically been a fish of nobility and kings? The website Culture.pl says Pike á la Polonaise was a delight that made old Polish cuisine famous in Europe. Some recipes call for as many 10 eggs for the sauce. In fact, Czech, German, French and Austrian cookbooks between the 16th and 18th centuries publicized Polish manor recipes on how to prepare pike. The Polish character of the dish included adding spices such as pepper, ginger, saffron, and nutmeg. Other ingredients, namely peas, croutons, onions and parsley root, were combined in order to prepare a thick, wine-based sauce. In the 17th century, Paul Tremo, court chef to King Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski, developed a milder version of the dish without pepper. According to culture.pl another famous 17th-century recipe is pike served whole, mentioned in *Pan Tadeusz*. Pike were skewered on the horizontal spit of a rotisserie.

Minnesota may be known as the walleye state, but the northern pike is the state's most widespread game fish, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. In fact, with its abundance of marshy lakes and streams, Minnesota has as much or more northern pike habitat than any other state.

Where are the best places to catch northern pike in Minnesota? Go to <http://ultimatefishingsite.net/minnesota-northern-pike-fishing/>

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A builder of faith and national identity

Continued from pg. 1

His most widely known secular works are the 1903 stone Gluek's Restaurant in downtown Minneapolis and the stone Swan Turnblad mansion that is now The Swedish Institute. Both were done during a 1902 to 1911 partnership he had with architect Christopher A. Boehme, who was of German heritage.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Cordella's death at age 65 in apparent poverty on April 12, 1937 amid the Great Depression. It is also the 90th anniversary of the July 1927 start of construction of Holy Cross Church, Cordella's last major commission.

"He was very prolific and multicultural. His work gave voice to the cultural identity of the people he worked with. He was a master of creating church buildings who forged deep connections across a wide variety of ethnic groups" says Madison, Wisconsin historian and realtor Geoffrey Gyrisco. Gyrisco authored a monograph 10 years ago about Cordella's architecture through the University of Illinois Press and the Connecticut-based Polish American Historical Association. (See www.jstor.org/stable/20148504).

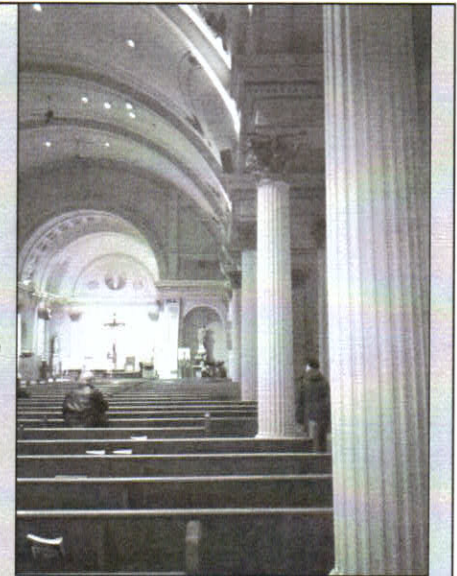
Cordella's personal heritage was Polish and Italian, and Gyrisco speculates that both Cordella's parents were descended from Italians who moved to Poland during the Renaissance and who worked on structures such the rebuilding of Wawel Castle after a fire in 1500 and Zamosc' City Hall.

"His artistically gifted mother, Florence, was Polish; his father Marian, who worked as a sculptor, was Italian," Gyrisco writes. "It appears that Cordella was part of a family engaged in artistic and architectural professions.... His parents provided him with an outstanding academic and professional education that exposed him to multiple central European cultures and national identities. He attended graded schools in Austrian Poland; then the Royal Art Academy in Krakow; and finally studied architectural technology under Professor Michael Kowalczyk in Lviv."

Victor Cordella's Prolific Portfolio

Churches

- Holy Cross Church
- St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral
- Sts. Cyril & Methodius
- St. Constantine (1913, torn down, replaced 1972)
- St. John the Baptist
- St. Peter, Delano
- St. Joseph, Browerville
- St. Casimier, St. Paul
- St. Mary of Czestochowa
- Our Lady of Lourdes, Little Falls



The interior of St. Cyril's shows Cordella's signature setback Corinthian columns.

Commercial/residential works with Chris Boehme

- Gluek's Restaurant, Minneapolis
- Swan Turnblad Mansion (Swedish Institute building)
- 112 E. Hennepin Ave (tavern, Nye's, soon Montage Apts.)
- 505 Central Ave. SE (now Lien's Bookshop)
- 219 Third Ave N. (now Monte Carlo restaurant)

Cordella's first big break in church design also came following a fire. St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Church, then a wood frame building in Minneapolis, burned in 1904. To rebuild, the 900-member congregation, mostly immigrants from Austrian Galicia and the Carpathian Mountain areas of Poland and Ukraine, hired Cordella "to design something grander and more durable." Cordella based his design on the Saint Nicholas Cathedral in Omsk, Siberia, with help from Russia.

In 1905, the same year that Russia lost its war with Japan, faced a deep economic crisis and violently put down a rebellion in St. Petersburg, Czar Nicholas II and the Russian government respectively sent the Minneapolis parish a one-time gift of \$1,029 and established an \$1,100 annual contribution to help fund the church's construction.

Unease with Russian influence at St. Mary's led both Carpathian Rusyn and Ukrainian parishioners to build their own Catholic Eastern Rite Minneapolis churches (St. John the Baptist in 1907 and 1926) and St. Constantine's (1913, replaced in 1972). Cordella got both groups' commissions.

See your next issue of PolAm for Part II of Victor Cordella - An Architect for All



An event-filled February, more festivities planned as spring arrives

Continued from pg. 1

Polish Consul General, Piotr Janicki from Chicago, was present, as was Donald Pafko, Minnesota Honorary Consul for the Slovak Republic. We honored representatives of two families that have been generous to PACIM with legacy donations. PACIM also participated in the Carpathian Festival at Landmark Center on Feb. 19. Our table was honored with a visit from Archbishop Bernard Hebda. His family is originally from Kompornia and Debno.

On Fat Tuesday Feb. 28, PACIM co-sponsored a Bach and Mendelssohn concert by world renown organist Gedymin Grubba from Gdansk., held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Golden Valley. We provided a Polish meal at the reception afterwards. That same night we helped promote Sledzik at the Viking Bar, Minneapolis. The owner featured a DJ spinning 'Polish' vinyl from the 80s, herring and Polish drinks.

This month we are partnering with the *Minnesota Hungarians* for Polish/Hungarian Friendship Day on March 23. Join us for an evening of Polish beers, Hungarian wines and desserts from both countries. There will be displays and entertainment at the International Institute of Minnesota. Some evening before Palm Sunday, we will be offering a palm braiding class. As details are finalized we will post them at pacim.org and Facebook.

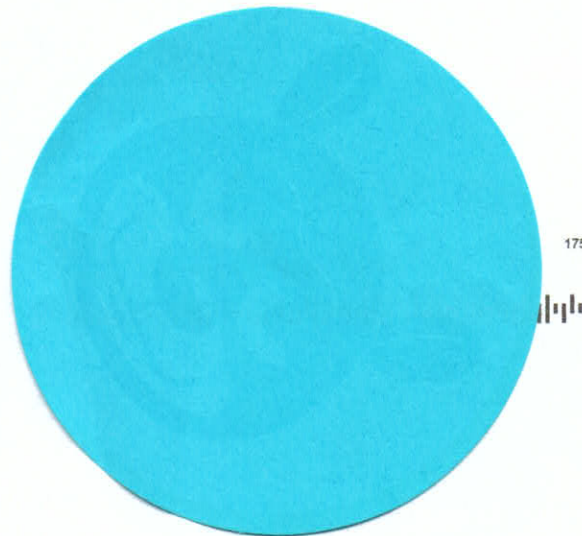
Shortly after Easter, we will be at the Festival of Nations for four days, May 4 to 7, at the River Center in St. Paul. We would be delighted to have you join us as we serve up traditional Polish foods. We are putting bigos back on the menu after an absence of several years. You can volunteer on line or by calling the office number. Working at least a four-hour shift earns you a free admission ticket.

When you visit our website, you may notice some slight modifications. We hope to enhance and make it more user friendly. There you can find information on all of our upcoming programs and classes. Soon we will be proposing a Capital Campaign fund for our facility needs. We are reaching out to members and beyond for pledges. If anyone is interested on serving on this committee, please contact me @ president@pacim.org. I'm looking forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions. Who knows, maybe someone out there has a new 'space' for us.

If anyone from the membership has any other ideas for the organization, feel free to reach out to me or any of the board members. We'd like to know your thoughts and suggestions. Dziękuję!

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“It is not important where we live, who we work for, or what language we speak. What’s most important is that we consider ourselves Polish and we are proud of it.”
 - Feb. 4, 2017, Polish President Andrzej Duda via satellite to a crowd at Polish Heritage Night at a Washington Wizards basketball game in Washington, DC

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