

60 Years of Polish Heritage!



St. Adalbert Polish Language School is 60 years old! What an accomplishment! This joyous occasion was celebrated in grand style on Saturday, April 26, 2014. The Jubilee Ball was attended by the parents, teachers, friends, former students and teachers.

In attendance were also founding members of our school. It was especially nice to see Pani Jadwiga Pelczarska with her daughter and son-in-law. Pani Pelczarska was involved with our school for many years beginning in the 1950's. For a time she was also the director and then a teacher until 1996. I must add that the Pelczarski family was extensively involved with St. Adalbert Polish Language School. Pan Edwin Pelczarski was the treasurer until 1996 and all the children attended.

On that special evening we were happy to have Pani Halina Szmid, Pani Krystyna Brycka, Pani Maria Miller and the grandchildren - the family of Pan Wladyslaw Szmid. Pan Szmid was the director for about 40 years. He was the anchor that held steady our Polish soul and did not allow the youth to drift away from their Polish roots. Pani Brycka, the daughter of Wladyslaw and Halina Szmid, has the honor of being the teacher who taught the longest in the history of our school. She began teaching folk dancing as a teenager and continued until 2012. That's dedication!

We also had the pleasure of hosting Pani Asia Bodziuch, a former teacher from the earlier years until the 1990s. Pani Bodziuch was also the singing teacher who, with the accompaniment of Pan Szmid on his mandolin, always had the children singing everything from Christmas Carols to patriotic melodies and everything in between.

We were happy to see on that April evening many of our esteemed educators from the 1970s until the present, including: Pani Maria Florek, Pani Jadwiga Healy, Pani Bozena Klimowicz, Pani Beata Bogdanowicz, Pani Danuta Misthal, Pani Dorota Klimek, Pani Elzbieta Antoniak, Pani Anna Kwasniewska, and Pani Karolina Grosicka. Without these special ladies we would not have lasted 60 years. Dziekujemy!!!

We were honored to host the representatives of the Polish American Congress, Eastern PA District, Pan Michael Blichasz and Pani Teresa Romanowska, St. John Cantius Polish Language School, Pani Lucyna Lis from the Polish Supplementary School Council of America, Inc. It was a pleasure to have our pastor, Father Jan Palkowski and Father Konstanty Pruszynski of St. John Cantius also in attendance.

It was especially nice to reminisce with alumni that have grown up and still fondly remember their Saturdays at Polish School and have remained friends because of those Saturdays.

Pani Danuta Eichler, the current director of St. Adalbert Polish Language School, warmly greeted all the guests. Our high school students, under the direction of Pani Anna Radon, presented an original skit and a song about school days. Pani Monika Koptyra then gave a power point presentation on the history of our school. Pani Karolina Grosicka with Mr. Scott Lazarov performed a gorgeous waltz to the melody of "Noce I Dnie." The evening was topped off by a delicious dinner and dancing late into the night.

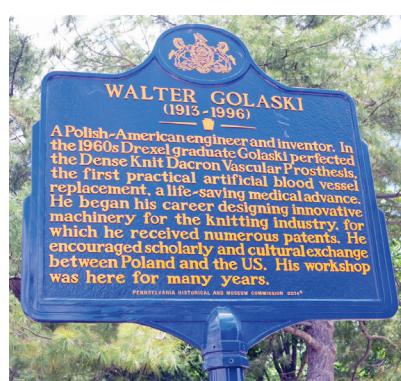
I was fortunate enough to have been present at this joyous occasion. My time at Polish School began back in 1971 when we arrived in Philadelphia and I attended the school and helped out with the Jasinka. I returned as a parent of three children and then as a teacher and upon Pan Szmid's passing, a director for 16 years. Today, I am the proud grandparent of Szymon who represents the third generation of our family at this very special school. That Saturday evening I called myself a bridge between the Szmid era and the new generation under the very caring and able hands of Pani Danuta Eichler.

Sto Lat Polska Szkoła!

Fondly,
Maria Suchocka Koleda

Walter Golaski Historical Marker Dedicated

by Peter J. Obst



At noon, on Saturday May 17th, approximately sixty people gathered on Lancaster Walk, near 34th Street, on Drexel University's campus to witness the dedication of a marker for Dr. Walter Golaski, a well-respected member of America's Polonia, biomedical engineer and former Chairman of the Kosciuszko Foundation Board of Trustees. This official marker was approved last year by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The event, organized by the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia with assistance from the Poles in America Foundation, was opened by President Marie Hejnosz with a welcome to those assembled. Richard Sand, member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, spoke on behalf the Commonwealth. Then a tribute letter from the Honorable Michael Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia, was read. Kosciuszko Foundation President John Micgiel spoke about the time when he worked with Dr. Golaski at the Foundation. He was followed by Consul General of Poland Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka who stressed the Polish contribution to America. Philadelphia City Comptroller Alan Butkovitz mentioned the importance of industry and innovation to the city, which Dr. Golaski exemplified.

Among those present were Walter Golaski's widow, Alexandra, daughter Alexandra, sons John Paul and Edmund, and granddaughter Jessica.

Speaking for the family, Edmund Golaski shared a few anecdotes from his father's life and the fact that his workshop had stood near this very spot at 3339 Lancaster Ave. Then the family members rose and grasped a cord securing the cover over the tall marker. On a count of three, the cord went taut, velcro fastenings gave way, and the cover peeled back revealing a handsome blue and gold sign.

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After the family took some photographs at the marker, the entire group, including friends of the Golaski family and members of Polonia, retired for lunch at the nearby Paul Peck Alumni Center of Drexel University. This was the third historical marker dedicated under Polish Heritage Society auspices in Philadelphia.

The next historical marker to be dedicated in Philadelphia, probably in mid-2015, will be in honor of the legendary conductor and musical director of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Leopold Stokowski. Additional information about the Polish Heritage Society of Philadelphia may be found under www.polishcultureacpc.org/orgs/PHSP.html

Polish Exhibit at the Annual International Spring Festival at North Penn High School, Lansdale, PA



From left to right: Bozena Klimowicz and Marion Bielawiec