



# Notatnik

Biuletyn Informacyjny  
Stowarzyszenia Techników Polskich w RPA

## TECHNIKA

### Apel Stowarzyszenia do społeczności polskiej w Johannesburgu

*Szanowni Państwo!*

Dzięki inicjatywie STP oraz wsparciu finansowemu MSZ jesteśmy w fazie wykończeniowej odnowy Polskiego Ogrodu Pamięci. Będzie on gotowy przed Świętem Zmarłych. Pozwalam sobie przypomnieć trochę historii związanej z tym miejscem:

W styczniu 1995 ks. Infułat Jaworski zgłosił się do Stowarzyszenia z prośbą o pomoc w rozwiązaniu grzebania prochów na działce polskiej – West Park Cemetery. Członkowie Stowarzyszenia społecznie wykonali projekt oraz nadzorowali prace. Koledzy Michał Kincer, Marek Łyżwa i Andrzej Romanowicz są architektami projektu o nazwie – Polski Ogród Pamięci.

Funkcjonalnie uwzględniono w nim następujące elementy:

1. Miejsce na grzebanie prochów.
2. Grobowiec kapłanów.
3. Ołtarz dla odprawienia Mszy świętej – zwykle zadusznej.

Polska działka na West Park Cemetery służy Polakom od wielu lat. Dzięki długowzrocznej polityce ks. Infułata Jana Jaworskiego mamy tam ciągle wiele miejsc do grzebania zmarłych, zarówno tradycyjnie jak i skremowanych. Działka ta była corocznie oczyszczana przez Rodaków pod przewodnictwem polskiego kapelana, aby przyjemnie było tam się spotkać na Zaduszki. Ten miły zwyczaj niestety zanikł w ostatnich latach. A należy to przywrócić!

Niestety w wyniku wandalizmu oraz zużycia otoczenie Ogrodu Pamięci było bardzo zaniedbane. Obecnie wykonujemy prace restauracyjne, odnowę i małą rozbudowę, które ponownie przewrócą temu miejscu należyłą formę. Wybudowaliśmy murek oporowy jako dodatkową ławkę obok prochów oraz półkę, gdzie wygodniej będzie zapalić lampkę. Stawianie lampek na małych płytkach powyżej prochów utrudnia ich czyszczenie oraz wymaga stąpania po innych prochach. Apelujemy zatem aby lampki stawiać powyżej napisu "Polish Garden of Remembrance" na specjalnie do tego przygotowanej półce.

A zatem ogród będzie odnowiony. Niestety stworzy to kontrast do zaniedbanych grobów wielu Rodaków. w przyszłości postaramy się je poprawić, ale tylko dla osób, których rodziny odeszły lub wyemigrowały. Do pozostałych apelujemy aby zadbać o groby swoich bliskich. Pozytywnym elementem jest to, że cmentarz posiada teraz poprawione bezpieczeństwo ze strażnikami przy jedynej bramie wjazdowej oraz jest patrolowany przez własną służbę porządkową oraz SAP.

*Z poważaniem*  
*Andrzej Romanowicz*

## Stefan Jan Olszewski

08/07/1927 – 15/10/2013



Stefan was born in Warsaw in a street named – Złota (in English – Golden). His father, Feliks, owned an electrical repair business, situated next door. His mother, Agnieszka (nee Świebodzińska), worked for the National Statistics Office and Film Agency. He finished primary school in Warsaw, and two years in the Marian Brothers' Catholic School. World War II interrupted his regular schooling. During the German occupation, he attended acting and singing lessons in the Polish underground schools. As a young boy, he also distributed patriotic articles published by the forbidden press. Later he took part in various operations of the Polish Home Army during the Warsaw Uprising. He was injured during one of the actions, and received his first military decoration – the Cross of Valour. After capitulation he was a prisoner in a German camp Murnau VIIA. He was forced to do hard labour with a group of 50 fellow prisoners at Donauvort labour camp. The US Army liberated this camp, and able-bodied Polish prisoners were given uniforms and began work in the US Army support group. Subsequently, he was incorporated into II Corps Polish Army Panzer Regiment stationed in Italy, where he completed courses for drivers, gunners and radio operators. World War II was soon over.

After demobilisation he arrived in Great Britain, where he helped Polish soldiers to be re-instated into civilian life, by translating and by finding work for them. When this work ended he joined the company Oliver in Croydon, repairing typing machines. This became his occupation for all of his working life. In England he took an enthusiastic part in activities of the Polish Combatants and other associations. He used his knowledge and talents to organise artistic performances.

He also learned to sail and became the instructor of the younger generation. He attended Croydon Polytechnic and obtained a "National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering". One of his passions was ballroom dancing. While competing in England he met his future wife Mary, who was visiting from South Africa. Another meeting with the local director in 1955 resulted in his being offered work in a company in Johannesburg. His new South African adventure began after boarding "The Bloemfontein Castle" on the way to Cape Town. He "tied the knot" with Mary on 9 February 1957. This union brought them two children: son Neil and daughter Wanda. Regretfully a stray bullet killed Neil, while on leave from local army duties. This was a great tragedy for the Olszewski's and the Polish Community.

After arrival in Johannesburg he again embraced the life of Polish immigrants. Incidentally, the first Polish man whom he met was none other than Józek Piskorek, former soldier of the I-st Panzer Division of Gen. Maczek. Stefan worked as the manager of the Polish Club, took part in cultural life, fund raising for the Polish sisters and supported the Polish chaplains. With Mary, he won the local champions' trophy in Samba and Tango. A highlight of his acting career was the play "The Flood" where he played the young son of the family, portrayed by Ania and Kocio Potocki. He was also a great supporter of Polish sport, fund raising with Henryk Nowacki, who was RSA champion in table tennis, as well as managing the local Polish football team. He was almost always a member of the Polish Combatant's Association, working with others as a treasurer under chairmanship of prof. Stefan Smoleniec. He remembered with great fondness many of the fellow combatants such as Jerzy Wallas, Stanisław Lipnicki, Stefan Sadło, Jerzy Grabowski, Karol Jaroszyński and many more.

He spent a number of years as a sexton to a long list of Polish Chaplains such as: rev. Franciszek Bajcer, Tadeusz Walczak, Jan Jaworski, Jacek Wesołowski, Stanisław Lipski and Faustyn Jankowski. Regretfully, recently his poor state of health did not allow him to continue.

My personal memories stretch to 70's when Stefan with Ali Arletowicz were the souls of artistic events. Ali played the organ and Stefan sang Polish religious songs and operatic arias. Notably: aria of Jontek from the Moniuszko's "Halka". Stefan never missed annual Warsaw Flights Commemorations and during his life was awarded with following decorations:

Cross of Valour – London • Polish – 1944  
War Medal – London • British – 1946  
Golden Cross of Merit – Johannesburg • Polish – 2004

*Rest in peace after such a busy and fruitful life*