Register Today:

Healing Yourself By Ways of Metaphysics: “Change the Mindset, Change Healing”
A Series with Vipin Mehta, Author of the “Global Healing Trilogy” (see page 8)

Save the Date:

Winter Park Paint Out Garden Party
Saturday, April 27, 2013
www.winterparkpaintout.org
Dear Friends and Supporters of The Polasek,

It’s with heartfelt gratitude I write to you. As president of the Board of Trustees, I wanted to take a moment and let you know how special you are and how important you’ve been in ensuring that The Polasek continues to be a source of inspiration to all who visit us. I am honored that you believe so much in the value that our beloved Museum brings to our community.

As you know, the Polasek celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. Well, I’m so pleased to let you know that these next 50 years have kicked off to a remarkable start — and it’s because of YOU! As volunteers, donors, members, vendors and guests, you have ALL made this 51st year wonderful. I invite you to share in the successes that you directly helped to create.

**THE PERMANENT COLLECTION:** Since our inception, the largest number of accessions of Mr. Polasek’s work occurred in 2012. Because of you, the following pieces have returned home.

**Spirit of the Woods** — A small bronze sculpture that the Museum had never before possessed. This piece perfectly depicts Albin’s ability to personify his love of nature in his work. It came up for auction in May 2012 and your donations made its purchase possible!

**The 1915 George D. Widener Memorial Gold Medal** — The most prestigious prize Albin received during his acclaimed career, The Widener Gold Medal was an award established in 1912 by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, where Albin studied. It recognizes the "most meritorious work of Sculpture modeled by an American citizen."

**Butterfly** — This is the epitome of an Albin Polasek piece, depicting a perfect marriage of fantastical whimsy and movement with representational anatomy. Formerly adorning the top of the archway leading into the Museum’s courtyard, Butterfly’s whereabouts have been unknown for decades. With your help, it is finally coming home.

Because of you, these works will be on display for all to enjoy, experience, and study. If you haven’t done so already, be sure to stop by soon to see these amazing works!

Mark Terry
President of the Board of Trustees

The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens is a 501(c)(3) public charity, nonprofit organization whose budget is funded by donations and memberships. All donations and dues go to support its preservation, maintenance and operation. Please give generously.

We need your support!

Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, assisted by the Florida Historical Commission.
SCULPTURE GARDENS: We are forever indebted to the volunteers, donors and vendors who support our three-acre sculpture gardens. According to messages in the Polasek guestbook, you have helped make: “a slice of heaven,” “paradise,” “spectacular grounds,” “gardens I’ll never forget,” and the list goes on... Please know you are cherished. We hope you smile as you take in the beauty, peace and serenity you helped to create.

Golf Cart, Storage Unit & Bike Rack – Your generosity made it possible for us to receive this golf cart. Now, we are able to accomplish four times as much gardening in one day as we were before.

“Man Carving His Own Destiny” Garden Redesign – Many herald the 1961 limestone version of “Man Carving His Own Destiny,” which greets all guests as they enter the Museum’s grounds, as Albin’s most inspirational piece. Completed after a stroke left his left arm paralyzed, it is one of Albin’s largest and last completed works. It is truly one of a kind and has never been moved from the location where it currently rests. Your donations have made it possible to give this powerful piece a home worthy of its message.

INCREASED CAPACITY: Over the past few years, we were awarded two challenge grants. Many of you rose to these challenges and generously matched the contributions of The Galloway Family Foundation and The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation to hire two professionals, a Curator and a Development Director. Well, 2012 marks the year that we have seen your donations come to life... quite literally! We are thrilled to welcome to our team Rachel Frisy, our Curator, and Michelle Martino, our Development Director. Both Rachel and Michelle bring a wealth of experience and knowledge in their fields, and we know we will realize the many opportunities they represent. Although these are vastly different roles, both are essential to ensuring the long-term health and vitality of our historic home and sculpture gardens. But it doesn’t end there. Through their work, the impact of your donations continues to multiply with the tangible contributions they are making at the Museum every day. From organizing educational activities on Smithsonian Magazine’s Museum Day to designing engaging visiting exhibitions, our Curator has brought valuable educational programming to our community. The Development Director continuously works to increase revenue for operations and projects. Your investment in the Development Director is leading the Museum to a financially healthy future.

Overall, you can see that 2012 has been a busy, successful year. We sincerely thank you for all you have done. Our doors are always open to you, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you. From all of your friends at the Polasek, we wish you a safe, happy, and blessed Holiday Season. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

—Mark Terry, President
Installment Two of “The Collector’s Corner”  
By Rachel Frisby

In my last segment I discussed some fine art collecting basics. Having a theme with continuity and acquiring personally meaningful objects and art are two ways I previously mentioned to distinguish your collection. The “Liska Collection” does both those things and is among the Museum’s newest acquisitions. Composed of Czechoslovakian heritage artifacts and art, it is a perfect example of a collection that is worthy of preservation and happens to be relevant to the Polasek Museum’s namesake.

As you may know, Albin Polasek was born in the small village of Frenstat in Moravia, part of what is now the Czech Republic. During Mr. Polasek’s lifetime his home country became an independent nation called Czechoslovakia, a fact that he was immensely proud of! This past October 28th, we honored Mr. Polasek’s dual American/ Czechoslovakian heritage by celebrating their National Independence Day. We celebrated with traditional pastry, folk dancers, and by unveiling the “Liska Collection.” Visitors were encouraged to study the patterns they saw and recreate a design of their own inspired by the collection in a hands-on art activity. Folk art from the region is known for its geometry, symbolism, and patterns in colorful nature motifs.

Allow me to highlight a few of my favorite pieces from the collection. Bohemians are known for their crystal and cut glass. The “Nude Girls,” an emerald green Malachite glass vase is an enchanting example of this exquisite craftsmanship. The vase was created by Hoffmann and Schlevogt, Czech manufacturers prominent among glass makers at the luxury level. The vase is highly collectable, being from the Art Deco period, with echoes of Art Nouveau stylization. Designs by the Czech glass manufacturers won the Grand Prix at the World’s Fair in Paris in 1937. The Malachite vase is particularly lovely with natural variations of color that entwine and vein through the design.

One of the more unique pieces from the collection is a handmade Czech noodle-maker. It’s a portion of a loom that was repurposed to make noodles for special fest day occasions. It was typical for each family to have their own holiday traditions, but they generally centered on a common dish or custom. The wooden dowels were used to curl the noodle into a spiral shape, at which point the noodle is firmly pressed into the strings, sealing the form and imprinting it with thin lines. It seems that even their cuisine did not escape embellishment! (Continued page 5.)
Woodrow Wilson Bust 
Now At The Polasek Museum!!!!!

A Polasek sculpture with an incredibly storied past is the Woodrow Wilson Monument which, as of October 5, 2011, stands once more in the Czech Republic opposite Prague’s Wilson Station. Originally created in 1928 and dedicated proudly by Tomas Masaryk, the first president of Czechoslovakia, and Wilson’s widow, Edith, this bronze bore the Wilson quote “The world must be made safe for democracy.” Naturally, after the US declared war on Nazi Germany, this idea was seen as anathema; the monument was destroyed on the night of December 10, 1941, on the order of Reinhard Heydrich, the diabolical “Reich Protector” of Nazi-occupied Bohemia and Moravia. To add insult to injury, after the war ended, the Soviets ordered all the molds and plaster models destroyed.

It was thought that this destruction signified the end of the story. However, the original plaster model of the full-size head and shoulders of the statue had been secreted in a warehouse on the outskirts of Prague, where it was found in January 2008. This discovery enhanced the rebirth of the sculpture, which demanded the collaboration of three artists, The American Friends of the Czech Republic, Czech officials, and officials from The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens, not to mention contributions from freedom-loving individuals everywhere.

As mentioned previously, the new bronze Wilson Monument was rededicated in Prague in the fall of 2011, once again fulfilling the dream of both Albin Polasek and the Czechoslovakian people to be rid of Austro-Hungarian subjugation and to bask in liberty as a free and democratic nation. Polasek’s fiery passion for democracy played a huge part in his success in being awarded this commission which ultimately honored both his native country and his adopted home. As a result, even after his death Polasek’s work is being featured prominently on an international stage. A popular tourist destination, Prague welcomes millions of world travelers annually. As a result, this might arguably be his most visible work of public art.

The plaster Wilson bust which generated the sculpture’s recreation is now at the Polasek Museum!! How has this been made possible, you may ask. Back in 2006, the Museum wrote a letter to the Czech Republic regarding the generation of the Wilson Monument. This missive was passed on to Mr. Oldrich Hejtmanek of the Cultural Commission of Prague, who championed the project’s approval because of his devotion to democracy and the sculpture’s important symbolism. Mr. Hejtmanek was given permission in 2008 to make a casting of original Wilson bust. After the casting was made, the mold was destroyed, and the original bust was returned to the National Archives of the Czech Republic, part of the National Museum of Prague, where it is currently preserved.

Mr. Hejtmanek passed away this past summer, and his family contacted Debbie Komanski, saying that they wanted to fulfill their father’s wishes and donate the Wilson bust to its rightful home, The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens. We welcome this priceless reminder of Albin Polasek’s commitment to freedom and are grateful for the dedication of Mr. Hejtmanek and others like him who were instrumental in bringing this project to fruition and successful conclusion.

(Continued from page 4.)

The “Liska Collection” also boasts three Slovak “Shepherd Cups” or Crpaks. Each one is distinct coming from different regions, time periods, and carved by separate artists or shepherd. Two are marked with the raised initials of their owners, and one dating from the late nineteenth century has a handle crowned with a carved bear. The folk art cups may have been worn through a belt, and would most likely have been filled with the day’s fresh milk.

Hopefully, I have piqued your interest enough to stop in to view the entire collection now on display in the historic residence’s kitchen. Please drop me a line at frisby@polasek.org if you have or know of a collection or collectors you think should be featured in the “Collector’s Corner” next. Special thanks to Vladimir and Maria Liska for their generous donation to the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens. Until our next installment, happy collecting!

We offer our sincere condolences to the Liska family and especially Maria Liska in regard to the recent death of Mr. Liska. Our prayers and good thoughts are with them.
Notes from the Garden . . .

Fall Pruning

November is a hugely busy time in the garden. While many plants are in full bloom, others are beginning to show the ravages of the summer. At the Polasek we take a few risks in the garden, pruning where and when needed. The danger of late season pruning is the potential of frost damage to newly emerging growth. Central Florida frost dates are December 15 to February 15. Ideal pruning season follows that, but sometimes you just can’t stand to look at things anymore, so prune if you must in your own gardens.

Byron Walker, our resident landscape designer, is waging the No More Green Blobs (that’s a technical landscape term) campaign.

Layering different types of plant material is a design technique that often creates wonderful contrasts in color and texture, but occasionally the contrast is lost and the green blob effect takes over. You will notice over the next several months we will be removing underperforming and volunteer shrubs that simply do not add to the visual flow landscape, blocking view corridors to the lake and sculptures.

We have a lovely Surinam Cherry (Eugenia uniflora) hedge along the path, however it has spawned many other green blobs which merely blur the design or crowd plants we could feature. You’ll see many subtle changes in the east garden as we remove these encroachers. The unusual shade-loving cycads donated years ago by the Cycad Society will once again be visible.

Winter/Spring Plant Palette

Our plant order will arrive the second week of November. Hundreds of tiny plants, plugs as they are known, will be planted. Our annual beds will be stripped, carefully weeded and replanted. We will repeat our always delightful Black-Eyed Susans, Rudbeckia Tiger Eye, as well as white and purple Osteospermum. Snap dragons, Wax begonias, pansies and Wave petunias in red, white and purple will replace the coleus which provided so much summer color.

UCF Gives Back . . .

Once again the Polasek Museum welcomed a busload of eager UCF students who volunteered to remove exotic, invasive vines and ferns from our landscape. Another team re-mulched flower beds and moved really heavy objects. UCF Gives Back is a annual university wide community service day. We are one of many non-profit agencies throughout the area who benefit from the students willingness to participate in the larger community. Following two hours of hard work, the students were free to enjoy the galleries, take a house tour and share our passion for Polasek’s work.
Garden Volunteer News:
Garden Volunteers Have More Fun!!!

Famous for pot luck lunches, our gardeners recently outdid themselves with a luncheon for Leu Gardens Director, Robert Bowden. Robert toured the gardens, identified some of our mystery plants and warmly complimented us on the current state of the gardens which he had not seen in over a year. Impressed by the commitment and talents of the Polasek volunteers, he encouraged us to continue adding to our collections; defining and minimizing our designs; and to call on him at any time for guidance. Needless to say, we were thrilled by his remarks.

We were also visited recently by the Orange County Master Gardeners. Volunteer Coordinator Pam Paisley, also a Master Gardener, gave a tour to twenty-five gardeners who were delighted to be invited to take cuttings for their own gardens.

Butterfly Rain Forest

Our butterfly population has risen dramatically this summer with the addition of butterfly larval and host plants throughout the garden. Always looking for an excuse to visit another garden, we ventured to Gainesville to visit the Butterfly Rainforest at the Florida Museum of Natural History. In addition to the thousands of mounted and displayed butterflies from around the world, there is a 6400 square foot lushly landscaped screened area which is home to over 1000 butterflies. It was truly inspirational! Best of all, is the weekly plant sale of butterfly plants. We couldn’t resist filling the cars with more plants for your butterfly viewing pleasure. If you would like to know how to attract more of these flying flowers to your yard contact us a info@polasek.org and we’ll send you a complete list.

PEAR Park Field Trip

Another small contingent of garden volunteers led by volunteer Dottie Hanna went to PEAR Park, the Palatka Environmental and Agricultural Reserve, as part of our ongoing butterfly and native plant research, where we were given a guided tour by Wendy Poag, Park Director. Formerly the site of a UF Agricultural Research Center, this 312 acre area is slowly being restored from crop land to its original native scrub. Home to the endangered scrub jay, gopher tortoises, bobcats and hundreds of other species, Wendy really impressed upon us our role as custodians of the land. With that in mind, every plant we plant or chemical we use will have a tremendous impact that is hard to reverse. Followed by a scrumptious lunch at the original Yalaha Bakery, our day was complete.
Healing Yourself By Ways of Metaphysics
“Change the Mindset, Change Healing”
A Series with
Vipin Mehta, Author of the
Global Healing Trilogy

Each three-hour discourse will focus on a particular theme and will include a presentation, Q & A periods, breaks, refreshments and meditation. Be inspired by beautiful artwork as you contemplate your own life’s journey.

Sunday January 6, 2013 (9:30a-12:30p)
Conscious Healing Mantra & Life is a Pilgrimage

Sunday January 13, 2013 (9:30a-12:30p)
Nature of Health Body, Mind, Soul & Spirit Integrative Relationship


Sunday February 3, 2013 (9:30a-12:30p)
Modalities of Healing & Introduction to Metaphysics

Reserve the entire series for the discounted price of $110.00 for non-members and $90.00 for members.
All proceeds will go to further support the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens.
—Register at www.polasek.org or call 407-647-6294—

The Polasek’s mission is to enrich lives through the power of inspiration. This Holiday Season, give a gift that inspires! Buy your loved ones a membership or make a gift in honor of someone who inspires you. Memberships start as low as $35.00 and donations of any size make a difference. Thank you for considering the Polasek this Holiday Season!

www.polasek.org

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR ORGANIZATION CH1467 MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. 100% OF YOUR DONATION IS RECEIVED BY THIS ORGANIZATION

Digital Photography 101 at The Polasek
The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens presents a fun, basic digital camera and photography course for those using a digital-SLR* camera.

In addition to in-class lectures, discussions and hands-on practice, there will be weekly assignments and critiques to improve and guide photography. The Museum and Gardens provide a unique and beautiful background for this course.

Topics include: DSLR essential camera functions, Aperture & depth of field, Shutter speeds & controlling motion ISO sensitivity, White balance, Exposure control, Camera accessories, Lenses & filters, Memory cards, Picture styles, Composition techniques, and more.

The course will wrap up with a “Gallery Showing” of student’s works.

Saturday Mornings 10:00 am (Approx 2 ½ hours each)
January 5, 12, 19, 26 2013

Class limited to 15 participants
Costs: $35 per Session
$120 Entire Series

—Register at www.polasek.org or call 407-647-6294—
Sculptures and Their Stories
By Trudy Furno

A cryptic letter from New York’s Grand Central Art Galleries arrived at the Chicago studio of Albin Polasek on a sunny May day in 1930. Mr. G. T. Nelson of the Galleries, where castings of Polasek’s 1924 bronze “Forest Idyl” were sold, informed Polasek that “a very wealthy and influential family” had inquired about this piece, wondering whether or not it could be made from its original twenty-six-inch size into a life-size creation. These interested customers were looking to acquire this sculpture which, according to Mr. Nelson, “would be placed in a wonderful location.” The potential buyers turned out to be none other than Anna Hyatt Huntington, the famous sculptor, and her husband, Archer Milton Huntington, who were in the process of planning their sculpture gardens in Murrell’s Inlet, South Carolina.

Polasek began to correspond with Mrs. Huntington; by the following month they had agreed that he would make the group measuring five feet, six inches. The sculpture was to be situated on a low brick base overlooking an old rice field and would be seen as a silhouette at a distance. She added in one of her letters to Polasek that she was “convinced that this will be a masterpiece.” This 1930 version of “Forest Idyl” was created during Polasek’s year as an Honorary Professor at the American Academy in Rome and was a stunning success. Polasek made several changes from his original work—he added different elements and took away others and actually witnessed the birth of a gazelle in a Rome zoo, which in turn made his sculpting of these beautiful animals all the more genuine and tender.

The casting accomplished in Rome, “Forest Idyl” was delivered to the Huntington’s in mid-1931 and was the first sculpture ordered for their project. In a letter written in her own hand, Mrs. Huntington said she was “delighted with the new model” and wrote that “you have made it even more interesting than the small bronze—it will be a great addition to our small garden.” Of course this “small garden” to which Mrs. Huntington refers is today called Brookgreen Gardens. “Forest Idyl” remains in its original situation and is a gorgeous and dramatic figure at the end of a shaded walkway.

This writer had the good fortune of being able to visit Brookgreen Gardens, see this Polasek work, and soak in the beauty of the landscape, the phenomenal sculptures, and the hospitality of its fantastic volunteers, Elaine and Ray Zabel, and its dedicated Vice President and Curator of Sculpture, Robin Salmon. If you are anywhere near the South Carolina coast, make sure you visit this gorgeous showcase of representational art. And, if you happen to be anywhere near Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, stop in to Bracken Library and chat with archivist Michael Szajewski. He informs me that Ball State’s “Forest Idyl” is the same 1930 version and was donated to the school by philanthropist David C. Ball (of Ball Canning Jar fame) and is affectionately called “The Naked Lady.” Located on the main floor of the library, it serves as a popular meeting place for students. Compare different aspects of all three versions and see which you like best! More next time . . .
Join The Polasek Volunteers!
A fantastic group of people regularly volunteer at the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens! If you enjoy plants and camaraderie, volunteering in the gardens is for you. If you enjoy history and art, you may want to learn about Albin Polasek and his work and lead tours through his historic home and chapel. Or, if hospitality and retail is your passion, you may enjoy welcoming guests in the Museum’s Gallery & Gift Shop. Many opportunities for fun and friendship await you at The Polasek Museum.

Call today 407-647-6294
Or email volunteer@polasek.org

Sunday, January 20
Sunday, March 24

visit www.polasek.org to purchase online or call 407-647-6294