CURRENT EXHIBITION:
The Missing Matisse: Pierre Henri Matisse
Tuesday, August 23 — Sunday, November 27
The fall season is an extremely busy time for us at the Polasek Museum, with great events and exhibits coming up! So mark your calendars and don’t miss out on the fun!

NOW ON EXHIBIT

The Missing Matisse: Pierre Henri Matisse

Tuesday, August 23 - Sunday November 27

WHAT’S HAPPENING

The Museum’s mission is to enrich lives through the power of inspiration, which people experience in The Polasek’s STORY, SETTING and ART.

NATIONAL MUSE DAY — Free Open House
Florida Sculptors Guild Demos and Matisse hands-on art!
Saturday, September 24; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FREE OPEN HOUSE

ORLANDO ARTISTS ART CRITIQUE
All Welcome! First-timers and advanced alike register with rfrisby@polasek.org
Sunday, December 11; 2 to 4 p.m.

OUR NEXT EXHIBITION

Contemporary Visions of Frantz Zephirin: Haitian Mystic
Tuesday, December 6, 2016 – Sunday, April 16, 2017

Florida Sculptors Guild Meeting
Not a Guild member yet? Sign up at amy@propsetc.com and attend! Monday, November 7; 7 p.m.

Heritage Festival
Folk dancing, history, hands-on art and more!
Sunday, November 13; 1 to 4 p.m.

Preservation, maintenance and operation. We ask for your generous support.
Polasek Welcomes New Staff in 2016

**Lane Epps** is the Polasek’s Development Coordinator, handling museum memberships, grants, and fundraising. She is a native of Orlando, a graduate of Trinity Preparatory School in Winter Park, and has a BA in Political Science from Boston University. Epps has more than 15 years of experience working in communications and fundraising capacities in education, government, and nonprofit. Past roles include serving as an assistant to the Chancellor of Boston University, an aide to a United States Senator, the director of parent relations and communications at Trinity Preparatory School, and grant coordinator for Harbor House of Central Florida.

With a degree from the Rosen College of Hospitality Management at UCF, **Marnie Vanture** comes to the Polasek with six years of business management experience as well as two years in branding and marketing field. She is member of the Junior League of Greater Orlando, a partner in the startup company WeLawyer, and runs both a kickball and cornhole league in Central Florida. Vanture joined the Polasek as an extra pair of hands to help with the Winter Park Paint Out in March and transitioned into the permanent role of Operations Coordinator.

**Lisa and the Goose**

In 1962 Albin Polasek was featured in a promotional movie entitled, “Welcome to Winter Park.” This movie highlighted Winter Park as an up-and-coming artist community, a “haven” for creative people. In the video at 22 min and 45 seconds, you will see Mr. Polasek sculpting a small girl in clay.

Polasek’s model was little Lisa (Johnston), and the clay sculpture would become the finished piece entitled, “Lisa and the Goose.” Visitors may recall seeing this sculpture in its new location, at the front door of the Capen House. Lisa greets all who enter with her infectious smile and good luck charm, her faithful goose.

“Polasek’s doctor, George Crisler (1902-1966), was one of the sculptor’s closest friends, and they naturally saw each other quite often during Polasek’s illness [stroke recovery]. It was not unusual for the doctor to bring along his four-year-old granddaughter when he came to call on his patient. One day on such an occasion Polasek expressed a desire to make a statue of little Lisa. He visualized her by the pool having caught a playful goose. Polasek’s fondness for Lisa grew each day, and apparently she was aware of his love for in posing she showed unusual patience for a child of her years.”

*(Excerpt from Man Carving His Own Destiny, by Ruth Sherwood)*

We are happy to announce that a plaster casting of “Lisa and the Goose” has been donated to the Museum by none other than little Lisa herself. We enjoyed visiting with Lisa, all grown up now, and hearing her and her mother, Barbara Bassett’s, stories about meeting and befriending Ruth and Albin. Lisa remembers the giant bag of candy Polasek would give her as a treat for being a good model and sitting still. Barbara recalls the pleasant smell of Polasek’s working studio, which was often fragrant with the smell of sauerkraut, which Polasek ate daily with sour cream. They also donated Polasek’s wooden easel and a box of his Italian clay, still soft, with his post recovery. It was not unusual for the doctor to bring along his four-year-old granddaughter when he came to call on his patient. One day on such an occasion Polasek expressed a desire to make a statue of little Lisa. He visualized her by the pool having caught a playful goose. Polasek’s fondness for Lisa grew each day, and apparently she was aware of his love for in posing she showed unusual patience for a child of her years.”

*(Excerpt from Man Carving His Own Destiny, by Ruth Sherwood)*

In Memoriam: Our Albin Polasek Museum family lost two of its greatest advocates this year. Blair Culpepper, Emeritus Trustee and John Polasek, husband of Emeritus Trustee Ann Polasek, passed from these earthly bounds. Blair enthusiastically supported the mission of the museum. John dedicated himself quietly, and let his beloved Ann take the lead. Both men shared their love of the museum, the gardens and the exhibits with all who would listen. They wanted the world to know and see the life-changing art and sculpture of Albin Polasek. They also provided abundant support to the community at-large. Our hearts are saddened by the tremendous void left by Blair and John. We share our grief with their families, friends and associates.

**Executive Director Debbie Komanski Honored as Community Leader of the Year:**

In March Debbie Komanski, Executive Director of the Polasek since 2004, was honored by the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Winter Park as Community Leader of the Year for 2016. In addition, the Winter Park Chamber named the Polasek Museum their Community Organization of the Year for 2015 at an awards ceremony in January.

**Message From The President**

Please support Polasek’s Annual Fund: Be on the lookout this fall for a letter asking you to support the Polasek Museum’s Annual Fund campaign for 2016. Your financial contributions not only ensure that we keep Albin Polasek’s legacy alive for future generations but show your support for arts, culture, and historic preservation in Central Florida. With rotating gallery exhibits throughout the year, educational programming, and the annual Winter Park Paint Out plein air festival in April, the Polasek Museum is a key player in our ever-growing arts and culture scene. A small but dedicated staff works hard to preserve the inspirational artwork of Albin Polasek and maintain the beautiful grounds, but we can’t keep our doors open without you! Giving a gift is a great way to get a year-end tax deduction as well.

Polasek’s doctor, George Crisler (1902-1966), was one of the sculptor’s closest friends, and they naturally saw each other quite often during Polasek’s illness [stroke recovery]. It was not unusual for the doctor to bring along his four-year-old granddaughter when he came to call on his patient. One day on such an occasion Polasek expressed a desire to make a statue of little Lisa. He visualized her by the pool having caught a playful goose. Polasek’s fondness for Lisa grew each day, and apparently she was aware of his love for in posing she showed unusual patience for a child of her years.”

*(Excerpt from Man Carving His Own Destiny, by Ruth Sherwood)*

We are happy to announce that a plaster casting of “Lisa and the Goose” has been donated to the Museum by none other than little Lisa herself. We enjoyed visiting with Lisa, all grown up now, and hearing her and her mother, Barbara Bassett’s, stories about meeting and befriending Ruth and Albin. Lisa remembers the giant bag of candy Polasek would give her as a treat for being a good model and sitting still. Barbara recalls the pleasant smell of Polasek’s working studio, which was often fragrant with the smell of sauerkraut, which Polasek ate daily with sour cream. They also donated Polasek’s wooden easel and a box of his Italian clay, still soft, with his post recovery. It was not unusual for the doctor to bring along his four-year-old granddaughter when he came to call on his patient. One day on such an occasion Polasek expressed a desire to make a statue of little Lisa. He visualized her by the pool having caught a playful goose. Polasek’s fondness for Lisa grew each day, and apparently she was aware of his love for in posing she showed unusual patience for a child of her years.”

*(Excerpt from Man Carving His Own Destiny, by Ruth Sherwood)*
Capen House Celebrates One Year Anniversary

The Polasek received national media attention when Winter Park’s historic 1885 Capen-Showalter House was saved from demolition and relocated to our property. The beautifully-restored home opened with great fanfare one year ago this October and is now available for tours, events, and museum programming. Thank you again to the 400-plus donors who made this possible!

By Curator, Rachel Frisby

We graciously thank our donors who have added to our collection over the years. In many cases, the donated objects were treasured heirlooms that they generously offered to the non-profit. A relative of our very own Ruth Sherwood recently came forward with Ruth’s portrait painted by Albin Polasek. Please join me in welcoming our newest addition to the permanent collection.

Upon examining the painting, it seems a rather straightforward rendering, depicting a woman of practicality: one with a subdued expression and attire. It is Polasek’s sincere and respectful depiction of a many-layered woman.

I have always felt a particular connection to Ruth and to her beautiful sculptures, which can be seen inside the historic home and the Museum gardens. My personal favorite is, “Weary Wanderer,” which is not only a sculpturally perfect rendition of the human form, but it is also a work steeped in feeling and gesture. The viewer both relates to the feeling of physical and mental fatigue and acknowledges the elegance of the human form as the figure stretches his tired, well-muscled limbs. So beautiful. Next time you’re in the sculpture gardens take another glance at this work on the path leading to the Capen Showalter House and don’t be surprised if you are stirred.

For those of you unfamiliar with Ruth Sherwood, let me briefly enlighten you. Ruth Sherwood began as Polasek’s student, became his lifelong friend, colleague, biographer and wife. She & Albin were married at ages 61 & 72. It was the first marriage for both and, sadly, lasted less than two years due to an illness that ended Ruth’s life in 1952. She taught sculpture for eleven years at the Art Institute of Chicago and received many public and private commissions throughout her career.

I am particularly delighted with this new accession to our collection because it highlights Ruth and all of her Mona Lisa-like charm. In honor of our new acquisition, courtesy of William Park of Massachusetts, I offer a poem written by Ruth to further illuminate the richness of her character. She penned this particular work while she summered with her family in Chautauqua, New York.

Morning

A silver gleaming lake lies at my feet; Beyond arise three tiers of misty hills. The hush of early morning is complete, And all the restlessness of the living it stills. Between birdsong and birdsong, all is deep In silence. Time stops with the breeze. In such an instant, only God dare speak, The still small voice that calls man to his knees. Stab Thou this moment deep into my soul! And if someday Thy love I should forsake, Let all this quivering ecstasy unroll— These tiers of mist-clad hills, this silvered lake!— Ruth Sherwood, July 1946, Chautauqua, New York

The Museum’s mission is to enrich lives through the power of inspiration, which people experience in The Polasek’s STORY, SETTING and ART.
Join The Polasek Volunteers, It’s Fun!

Would you like to spend more time at a place you already love? Join your fellow Polasek fans and become a volunteer here at The Museum. We’d be thrilled to have you as part of our friendly community. Not only could you spend time amongst the beauty of the Historic Home & Studio, Gallery, and Gardens, but you could also enjoy the fellowship of volunteers and staff members.

As a member of the Polasek museum, we know that you care about this institution. Becoming a volunteer would cost you nothing more than a few hours a week or a few afternoons throughout the year! We also offer great benefits to our volunteers including regular get-togethers, trips, and many more wonderful things.

Our volunteer positions fit a wide range of schedules and interests. Do you have a green thumb? Join our Garden Gang! This enthusiastic group helps keep the gardens beautiful throughout the year. Do you like meeting new people and sharing your enthusiasm for the Polasek story? Become a museum volunteer! These dedicated volunteers are the welcoming face of the museum, from greeting guests when they first arrive to giving tours of the historic home. Do you have a busy schedule but still want to participate? Join our events volunteer team! These generous volunteers help out at one or more of the special programming events that we offer throughout the year.

If you are interested in joining a group of volunteers who are committed to sharing and preserving the legacy of Albin Polasek, please contact Erin Carter or Rachel Fugate for more information. volunteer@polasek.org OR 407-647-6294 ext. 2001