Artful Strings:
Four Centuries of Harp Making
January 17- April 15, 2012

Harp Photos:
Douglas Nesbitt
Special thanks to Foundation President Jere Daniels

The Board and Staff wish to thank Jere Daniels for his dedication and leadership during the past three years of his service as President.

Jere F. Daniels, Jr. was born March 23, 1967 at Winter Park Memorial Hospital in Winter Park, Florida. He was the 3rd of 4 children born to Jere F. Daniels and Jane H. Daniels. Jere was raised in Winter Park and attended Brookshire Elementary School, Glenridge Junior High School and Winter Park High School, where he graduated in 1985. He then attended Auburn University from 1985 through 1990 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Architecture, Design and Construction. While at Auburn University Jere was initiated into the Sigma Chi fraternity, participated in a cooperative education program with Hubbard Construction Company and most importantly, met his wife-to-be, Ashley A. Hoffmeister. Jere then attended the University of Florida, College of Law and graduated in 1993. Upon graduation from law school, Jere accepted a position as Associate Counsel for OHM Remediation Services Corp. in their Atlanta, Georgia office where he worked from 1993 through 1998. In 1998 he accepted a position with the law firm of Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman, P.A. in Winter Park, where he is now a Shareholder practicing in the firm’s Real Estate Department. Jere was married to Ashley A. Hoffmeister on May 21, 1994. They are blessed with three wonderful children, Patrick (14), Harrison (12) and Lillian (8). Jere’s other community commitments include serving as a Trustee of The Galloway Foundation, ushering and serving on various committees at All Saints Episcopal Church, volunteering / serving as a merit badge counselor for Boy Scouts Troop 205, and serving as a Trustee and officer at the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens.
Mark your calendar today for next year’s Paint Out!

April 22 — April 28, 2012

Artists paint in The Polasek’s sculpture gardens and at other locations throughout Winter Park. Works will be on display and for sale as soon as they are completed and dropped off at the museum’s wet room. Stop by to see and purchase works produced during this year’s Winter Park Paint Out!

A Plein Air Celebration!
Patrons and Sponsors Preview Reception
Saturday April 28 — 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Paint Out Patrons and Sponsors gather for an exclusive preview of Winter Park Paint Out artwork. Join us for a private reception with the artists and first choice of paintings delivered Saturday before the Garden Party sale. Please contact The Polasek Museum at 407.647.6294 for more information about becoming a Paint Out Patron or Sponsor.

Paint Out Garden Party
Saturday April 28 — 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Join us for a special night “en plein air” at The Polasek Museum. We’ll be celebrating the masterful works of Florida’s finest artists as we bring the 2012 Winter Park Paint Out to a close. Meet the artists from this year’s event and see the entire exhibition before Sunday’s opening. For ticket information, please contact The Polasek Museum at 407.647.6294.

See website for complete details
www.WinterParkPaintOut.org

- Free Painting Demonstrations
- Other Special Events
- Sponsorships
- Art Patrons

Update on the 2012 Paint Out

The Artists Selection Panel has the list of artists for the 2012 Winter Park Paint Out event finalized. Twenty six artists have accepted the invitation to participate. The selection process has been time consuming and demanding in many ways, but will provide the opportunity to have a more diverse event. Half of the artists in the 2012 event will be from outside the Winter Park area and a number of the artists are coming from outside the state of Florida. This participation and exposure is a testament to the success of the prior events. Visit the website at www.winterparkpaintout.org for the list of artists for 2012.

Now that the list is finalized, the Paint Out Committee is asking for support to assist in providing housing for the out of town artists. Hosting an artist will not only help make the event more successful, but will provide the opportunity for the host to be more involved. Imagine the satisfaction of discussing the day’s events with one of the artists.

If anyone has an interest in hosting an artist for the 2012 Paint Out event, please let the Polasek know via email at info@polasek.org or call 407-647-6294 for more information.

The patron program for the Winter Park Paint Out will be even more exciting and rewarding for the 2012 event. The Winter Park Paint Out event is still one of the few art events that gives 100% credit of the patron contribution towards the purchase of artwork created in the event. The Paint Out Committee is in the process of finalizing all the benefits and advantages of being a patron for the 2012 event. An additional patron level with even more benefits and advantages is being developed. Keep up with more news and details about the patron opportunities at www.winterparkpaintout.org. Please let the Polasek know via email at info@polasek.org or call 407-647-6294 if you are interested in receiving more information on becoming a patron.
A Special Visit at The Polasek Museum  
by Trudy Furno

On Saturday, October 8, 2011, The Polasek Museum had a visit from Wolfgang Polasek of Vienna, Austria. Wolfgang is a distant cousin descended from his father’s brother, Albin’s Uncle Rudolf. Mr. Polasek was visiting here in Florida for the first time in conjunction with a speaking engagement at University of Central Florida’s College of Business. Accompanying Mr. Polasek were a colleague of his and his colleague’s friend. Wolfgang was very happy to be here and see his relative’s home. He told me that the Polasek family originally came from somewhere in what is now modern-day Poland and that the name “Polasek” meant “small Polish.” In keeping with that historical tidbit, we started the day off with a viewing of the Polasek DVD and a thorough tour of the house and chapel amid pouring rain and monsoon-type winds. Undeterred by the weather, Mr. Polasek was eager to relate his side of the Polasek story. Wolfgang, himself born on June 19, 1951, had never had the opportunity to meet Albin Polasek but had heard much about him throughout his life. Wolfgang’s father and great aunts, however, had had much contact with Albin throughout their lives until 1965, when Albin passed away. Wolfgang reported that the house in which he now lives, a structure built in the 1860s, was the very same home in which Albin stayed when he visited his relatives in Vienna. At the time of Albin’s apprenticeships in Vienna, Albin’s Uncle Rudolf, wife Anna Polasek, and cousins lived there. The three youngest of these children, Mathilde, Maria, and Johann (Wolfgang’s grandfather), were Albin’s cousins. Albin was said to have gathered soft wax from candles in the church while visiting the family and practiced his modeling using the malleable material. In addition, Wolfgang related, Albin was a frequent visitor to the Sokol gym, which was only a few blocks away from the Polasek home. On the ground floor of the house in Vienna was a room devoted to selling Moravian woven textiles. Well into adulthood, warm family ties were maintained as two of these cousins, Mathilde and Maria, Wolfgang disclosed, were present at the dedication of Albin’s work on Mount Radhost, as noted in the biography Man Carving His Own Destiny on page 397. Furthermore, Wolfgang recounted that these cousins were closer than one would ascertain from reading the Sherwood biography. Wolfgang maintained that Albin visited Vienna every time he returned to Europe and always stayed with the Polaseks while there. One story that Wolfgang was especially eager to share was that of his father Otto, who knew Albin.

Trip to American Bronze Foundry

A group of twenty-one Polasek volunteers had a wonderful trip to American Bronze Foundry in Sanford on Monday, November 7, 2011. Jennie Schiffermiller of American Bronze arranged for our group to have two wonderful employees, Ed and Mohammed, lead the groups through the foundry, highlighting each step in the very labor-intensive and complex process of bronze casting.

One of the highlights of the tour was seeing our own Elizabeth in the welding area. She is being cast in bronze for the Children’s Healing Garden at the new Nemours Children’s Hospital. We also were able to see our fiberglass Risen Christ, which American Bronze has situated on a balcony overlooking the work floor after its bronzing in 2009.

American Bronze welcomed all of us with open arms and gave everyone a wonderful and educational experience. A good time was had by all!
**Artful Strings:**

**Four Centuries of Harp Making**

January 17 - April 15, 2012

By Curator, Rachel Frisby

The harp is undeniably a beautiful instrument; with its elegant lines, thousands of intricate mechanisms, and exquisitely gilded with gold leaf so fine, it’s almost too lovely to touch. It is the product of skilled artisans, who employ techniques centuries old—the harp is literally a work of art. It seems impossible, but the harp becomes even lovelier when a musician rests it gently upon his shoulder and begins to play trickling, tingling sweetness. The harp has the power to move us, uniquely apart from other studio art forms, because it is a delight for the eye as well as the ear.

I hope the viewer will discover, as I have, how surprising this iconic instrument is. “Artful Strings: Four Centuries of Harp Making” is an exhibition designed to peel back the layers and expose the harp’s inner workings, its history, and the creation of its cultural identity. The International Harp Museum’s collection includes a wide spectrum of harps, ranging from ethnic African and Burmese harps to Folk and Celtic harps, and modern orchestral harps. Every single object in the collection is a stand-out piece, and there will also be a few unexpected, experimental harps in the bunch as well. What is particularly fascinating about this collection is it is a “working collection.” Not only are many of the instruments sturdy enough to be played, but many are played regularly in concert settings. This will be a hands-on installation giving visitors the rare opportunity to play a harp first-hand and see a “deconstructed harp.” There will also be harp demonstrations, a film screening, art history lecture and book signing, and multiple performances at concert settings as well as on site at the Polasek. The Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens is pleased to collaborate with the International Harp Museum in bringing you “Artful Strings: Four Centuries of Harp Making”. Come and discover the beautiful and fascinating harp.

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**Primeval Struggle**

*Primeval Struggle*, which has graced the sunny corner near the landscape office for many years, has a new home in the shade of the East Garden. The harsh Florida sun has taken its toll on its fragile fiberglass form. Nonetheless, it is a potent sculpture and one of Polasek’s most important political pieces. *Primeval Struggle* communicates the mortal combat between good and evil. Very briefly, it was sculpted in 1931 for the 20th anniversary of the Czechoslovakian Republic and installed in Frenstat in 1938 in memory of the veterans of World War I. At its base are the words “Let our sacrifice bless your work.” Polasek’s gift to Frenstat inspired many as Czechoslovakia stood on the brink of yet another conflict and witnessed Hitler’s rise to power. *Primeval Struggle* is on our sculpture conservation wish list.
Woodrow Wilson Monument

The dream of the re-creation and rededication of the Woodrow Wilson Monument in the heart of historical old town Prague, Czech Republic, was realized this past October 5, 2011, after a lengthy process involving intrigue, research, and artistry. A contingent from the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens was present at this momentous occasion, and there was great celebration as the sculpture took its place near the spot where the Nazis had toppled the original bronze. Seen as a victory for freedom, democracy, and liberty, this sculpture honors both its creator and the cherished ideologies by which the Czech people have persevered throughout ages of oppression.

Coinciding with this noteworthy event, another remarkable milestone was reached for the Albin Polasek Foundation. In 1932, Albin Polasek had purchased a ten-acre piece of land on the outskirts of his hometown, Frenstat pod Radhostem. This was the very same property on which he wandered as a boy and on which the Polasek family cows found pasture. This acreage faces Mount Radhost, on which the Sts. Cyril and Methodius and Radegast sculptures created by Polasek in 1931 reside, and provides a pastoral combination of forestland, meadow, and stream. Unfortunately, after World War II, the Czech people were subjugated by the Soviets, and landholders were stripped of their personal property rights. Polasek’s dream of building a home there quickly evaporated.

In July of 2011, Executive Director Debbie Komanski was contacted by the Vice Consul of the Czech Embassy in Washington, DC, to verify the history of Albin Polasek. At the time of the call, no reason was given for the contact. Subsequently, however, the Polasek Museum was notified that the Czech government was returning the land which he had purchased decades ago to the Albin Polasek Foundation. On October 7, 2011, while in the Czech Republic for the Wilson festivities, the court formally transferred ownership of the land to the Albin Polasek Foundation. The heavily wooded land, accented by pasture and brook, is in pristine condition and is zoned to encourage the preservation of its natural state. It remains to be seen what the Museum will do with this gorgeous piece of Albin’s homeland.

Photos from the trip to the Czech Republic
1. Mold making
2. Hejmanek with plaster model of Wilson
3. Recreation before casting
4. Former President Havel at dedication
5. Paul Beckmann, Judy Duda, Corrine Roy, Diana Beckmann and Debbie Komanski
6. Walk of Freedom plaque at the base of the monument
7. Debbie Komanski following dedication of monument
8. Debbie Komanski with rocks from Albin’s acreage
Good-bye . . .

Artist Berto Ortega came to the Polasek several years ago to be the handy person, garden assistant, and executor of the Honey Do List. He has been our go-to guy for all the miscellaneous tasks involved in keeping the building and grounds in working order. Fix the sprinkler? Call Berto! Set up a meeting? Call Berto! Toilet overflowing? Call Berto! Run to Miller’s Hardware? Call Berto! Every chore was met with a smile and a willing heart. We accept his resignation only because we know we must.

We always knew the talented artist who won our hearts was not on the custodial career path. We knew we’d lose him someday. In his time with us, his work has been showcased at our three Paint Outs and will be making an appearance at the Canaveral Seashore Paint Out. He has been “discovered” and is now teaching seven classes at the Crealde School. In November he and plein-air artist Morgan Price will be painting during a fund raising event for the Daytona Beach Symphony. He has become involved in a new venture of artist studios in Orlando. He work is in demand, his opportunities converged, and he is now in a position to devote more of himself to his art. And for an artist with a passion, that’s how it should be.

We will miss him but are assured we will find him quietly painting in the Polasek Gardens he grew to love.

Hello . . . Change is good! We now welcome to our staff Winter Park native, Byron Walker, a long time Garden Volunteer and owner of the landscape design firm Avant Garden Designs. Byron brings to the Polasek Gardens both academic training (University of Idaho) in landscape architecture and years of experience. He is skilled in all aspects of landscape design, maintenance and installation, as well as being one of those guys who has the ability to “do anything” from plumbing to concrete to carpentry. As we continue our work remaking some of the garden beds, we look forward to employing his solid plant knowledge and clever landscape pro’s tricks. He always seems to have a labor saving way of doing things.

Also an artist with a working atelier at McCrae Studios, he brings the eye of a sculptor to his work in the garden. Using found objects and nature’s leftovers, he crafts fascinating works of art. Once a tree farmer, he now has a collection of trees “growing” around a Swoope Studio in Maitland. Look for them!

Byron will work with our garden volunteers, interact with the landscape contractors, leave his design mark on the garden and assist with museum facilities. Welcome to The Polasek Byron!

Silk Floss Tree . . . That tree, Chorisia Speciosa (also Ceiba speciosa) is a native of Brazil and Argentina and can reach 30-60 feet tall. Young trees such as ours grow quickly, straight and narrow, developing broadly spreading canopies as they age. The bulbous green trunk begins to gray as it ages (like so many of us) and is covered with those lethal-looking blunt and warty triangular spines. Silk floss trees drop their leaves before putting on a spectacular display of fall blooms ranging from pale pink to rose to purple and burgundy. The flowers are followed by pear-shaped capsules filled with difficult to germinate seeds in the silky white floss that give the Silk Floss tree its name.
Volunteer Voice

We ask volunteers to recount why they enjoy working in the Polasek Garden. Volunteer Marilyn Terborg had this to say:

I am happy to talk about the Polasek to anyone who will listen!

I promised myself that when the time came to retire, I was going to do some volunteering in a garden. The Polasek being the closest to my house, seemed to be a good choice. I met Pam at the Seminole County Plant Fair at Redbug Lake Park last year, and she invited me to join her jolly group of garden aides. When I arrived for the first time, there was Randy, who I remembered from Poole & Fuller in Winter Park, where I had purchased many plants in the past. I felt so welcomed by the friendliest group I had ever worked with. Now I feel that the P is just a part of my life. The gardens are so lovely and serene, and I am invigorated each time I am there. Pam has trusted me with my own little corner, and with much help from Pam, Leo and Patrick, the mulch master, it has been transformed from a tangle of vines and ugly trees into, I think, a most attractive space. There is still a way to go but I will stick with it. We all work hard but also have lots of fun and good fellowship, and often really good food! I am so glad to be a part of this beautiful place and the beautiful people who make it so!

UCF Knights Give Back is a campus wide day of volunteerism at UCF. Hundreds of students imbued with the spirit of community care fan across the area to assist wherever help is needed. Approximately 40 students and faculty memberships descended on The Polasek ready to bathe “Albin’s children.” With great care, each sculpture and base was given a scrub. They also spread some mulch, chopped compost and moved piles of concrete! In return for their labors, they took tours of the house and gardens and viewed the gallery show. Enthusiasm was high, and at the day’s end, many expressed an eagerness to return with family and friends. It’s always nice to make young fans of The Polasek!

Keep Winter Park Beautiful Once again, The Polasek Museum is the recipient of one of four awards in the 2011 Keep Winter Park Beautiful beautification project. KWPB is one of Winter Park’s most active volunteer groups, whose mission is to improve the quality and aesthetics of our environment in order to create a healthier, more beautiful place to live, work and play. The lovely and serene gardens of The Polasek Museum certainly epitomize their promise.

Scarecrows in the East Garden were courtesy of Jill Altomare’s 3rd grade students at Parke House Academy. They were inspired by Polasek’s sculpture, Perun. Perun Scarecrows are made with painted plaster-wrapped heads, found objects, recycled plastic bags and Spanish moss. Parke House Academy, a Pre-K through 5th grade structured educational setting, is located on Minnesota Avenue in Winter Park. This is Parke House Academy’s fourth year providing autumn scarecrows to the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens.

Garden Wish List . . .

- Irrigation Shovel: $50
- Gas Blower: $200
Welcome Rachel Frisby, Polasek Curator

Rachel comes to us from a small town in rural Wisconsin, just outside of LaCrosse. She has had an interest in collections ever since she was a small child and spent weekends rummaging around in her Grandmother’s basement. “Objects have always held a strong magnetism for me. I felt the power in those early objects, and now as museum professional, I enjoy letting them speak.”

Rachel has traveled extensively throughout Western Europe, which solidified her love of museums, art, and material culture. She says, “I was hooked!” Afterwards, she completed a bachelor’s degree in Art History and minored in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin Superior. It was there, that Rachel curated her first show of “Czech Prints” from a private collection, and worked closely at Kruk Art Gallery installing student shows. She received her master’s degree in Museum Studies from the University of Kansas, in Lawrence, Kansas, with her chosen emphasis in American History.

Rachel completed her curatorial internship with the Mt. Hood Museum in Government Camp, OR. She also worked for several years as collections specialist for the University of Kansas’ Archive of Recorded Sound. In addition, Rachel has been trained as a laboratory technician, working primary with books and works on paper, for the Standard Conservation Laboratory in Lawrence, KS. Most recently, Rachel was employed as the lead teacher for a Kansas City, MO nonprofit, the historic Whatsoever Community Center.

“I have experience teaching all ages in both informal museum settings and in the classroom, I’ve been a docent, and I am an artist myself. Hopefully, my wide range of skills will help me reach new audiences here at the Albin Polasek Museum.” Rachel says her immediate museum goals are to, “update the collection records, develop educational outreach programming, and to bring greater attention to Albin Polasek’s early life.” “He was so inspirational as an artist and as a human being. The trick is making the museum’s mission relevant to modern museum audiences. After experiencing the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens, I’d like visitors to feel like no mountain is too high.”

Volunteer Opportunities:

Consider The Polasek if you would love to volunteer in a beautiful and tranquil setting.

Positions available:

❖ Gallery Receptionists
❖ Docents
❖ Special Events
❖ Gardens

For more information or to schedule a training session please call 407-647-6294 or email volunteer@polasek.org

Limited seating left...call today

the Polasek presents:

Ayako Yonetani at the Polasek:
Exclusive Chamber Concert Series 2011-2012

The Polasek Museum’s 7th annual 3-concert music series features the world-renowned violinist Ayako Yonetani with computer accompaniment by Dr. Kiminobu Sugaya and a variety of guest instrumentalists performing works by Bach, Vivaldi, Beethoven, Debussy and Piazzolla among other composers. Held in the elegant salon of The Polasek residence, concert-goers experience acoustic perfection in an intimate setting. Limited to 50 seats, the performance is followed by a private reception.

Cost: $30 per concert.
Tickets can be purchased at www.polasek.org or by calling 407-647-6294.

January 29, 2012
2:00 p.m.
Guest Artists Scott Kluksdahl (cello) and Dr. Susan Dubois (viola)

March 25, 2012
2:00 p.m.
Guest Artist Catherine Weddle, UCF Presser Award Winner (harp)
Carpe Diem! Never has the motto “Seize the Day!” meant more to The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens.

The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens was recently awarded two prestigious grants. The Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation has awarded us a $30,000 matching gift challenge and The Galloway Foundation awarded us a $33,500 challenge grant. The two challenge grants amount to $63,500 and require a dollar for dollar match from donors.

These grants represent significant investments in The Polasek’s future! The awards are crucial for us now and will enable us to provide more high quality programming, greater outreach to young people and better access for visitors and devoted patrons like you. This funding will help us to become more self-sustaining and will support our curatorial efforts to help preserve the legacy of Albin Polasek for generations to come.

Please make a tax deductible donation to The Polasek now and help ensure that we will reach our goal. Every dollar you donate in response to this crucial appeal will be matched by another dollar, doubling your gift. We MUST reach our goal in order to receive the grants. Thank you for your support!

New Membership Levels

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<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Adult</td>
<td>$45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student/Teacher/60+</td>
<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family or Dual</td>
<td>$65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Destiny</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<td>* Sower</td>
<td>$200</td>
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Membership Benefits

- Unlimited admission to museum, galleries and gardens
  - Free parking while visiting the museum
  - Free admission to regular tours and exhibits
  - Free guest passes to share
  - 10% discount on select gift shop merchandise
  - The Polasek newsletter
  - Invitations to previews and exhibit openings
  - American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Gardens

(Discerns at more than 150 arboreta, gardens & conservatories nationwide. Visit www.ahs.org for current listing.)

* Additional Benefits for Destiny & Sower Levels
  - VIP Sneak Peek Invitations
  - 10% discount special event rental
  - Destiny Level, 4 guest passes
  - Sower Level, 10 guest passes

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