



# The Post Serial

Volunteer Newsletter of Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens

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*Lynn Rossotti, Director of Marketing & Communications*

The pomp and pageantry of imperial coronations were documented and promoted in lavish albums that became almost as important as the extravagant events themselves. To mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Romanov dynasty in 2013, Hillwood will present a special exhibition in the Dacha from mid-February to early June of the albums created over the course of the family's reign.

Over the course of their reign, the Romanov coronations were elaborate celebrations, with their grand entry into Moscow, fireworks, and the ruler symbolically crowning himself. Sumptuous albums were created to spread word of the event and details of all its symbolism.

In the year of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crowning of the first Romanov tsar, the most complete collection ever of these coronation albums (including two copies of the monumental Alexander II album of 1856, one in its original binding) will be on display at Hillwood. Beginning with Catherine I, wife of Peter the Great, there were a total of seven coronation albums created by the Russian tsars—each published within a few years of the event. The exhibition will feature five albums from Hillwood's collection, plus supplemental material on loan from the New York Public Library, the Library of Congress, and the University of Texas at Austin, bringing together six of the seven coronation albums together for the first time in an exhibition in the United States.



With objects from Hillwood's Russian decorative arts and paintings collection—the most comprehensive one outside of Russia—an exploration of the Romanovs' lasting influence on Russian art and culture will add to the understanding of their reign and the coronation albums. Coronation books from other countries also on display such as the Holy Roman Empire will illustrate the bearing that the West had on the Romanovs and the dynamic relationship of the cultures.

### **The Albums**

These lavishly produced albums are art objects in their own right with eye-catching bindings and illustrations—primarily engravings and chromolithographs—by the best artists and craftsmen of their day. Published in very limited print runs they were presented to other courts, diplomats, family members, and important guests by the Tsar. Because they were not widely available beyond these circles, a public collection like Hillwood's, with five of the seven albums, is rare. Albums feature views of coronation processions and ceremonies; images of official dinners, balls, and imperial regalia; exact copies of dinner menus and more, the albums offer a fascinating portrait of the dynasty, and what each ruler wanted us to see and remember for posterity.

The images of each coronation album will be digitized and presented as an interactive technology component, allowing visitors to scroll through the book, examine images not on view, and zoom in on details. The digital book will be available as a free download from the Apple iBooks store and available for use on iPads placed in the exhibition space.

## HILLWOOD HAPPENINGS

All Hillwood volunteers are invited to take advantage of these tours, workshops and other activities. Please register in advance on the sign-up sheets on the clipboard in the Horticulture Building hallway or contact Bill Johnson at 202.243.3927 or

[bjohnson@HillwoodMuseum.org](mailto:bjohnson@HillwoodMuseum.org). Advance registration is not necessary for continuing education events in the Visitor Center Theater.

### How to Watch Videos Online

To view the videos of past lectures, visit <http://volunteer.HillwoodMuseum.org> and click on the Education tab at the top of the website. Select "Lecture Video Archive" followed by the year (for example, "2012 Lectures") to access a video. An email with instructions and a password will be sent once a new session is available online.

### Plant ID Walk

**November 15 (Thursday), 9:00 a.m.**

Plants that offer winter interest through their bark, color, or other characteristics will be the subject of this walk. Meet in the Horticulture break room.

### Volunteer Trip:

**Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York**

**November 18 (Sunday), 7:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

Join your fellow Hillwood Volunteers for a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on Sunday, November 18. Hillwood's own Roentgen roll-top desk, pictured below, will join some sixty-five pieces of fabulous furniture and clocks in the exhibition *Extravagant Inventions: The Princely Furniture of the Roentgens*.

The day will include an audio tour of the exhibition with ample down time to explore the MET's other galleries on your own. As a group, we'll attend two lectures led by MET exhibition curator Wolfram Koeppe and Victoria & Albert Museum art historian Carolyn Sargentson for more insight into Abraham and David Roentgen's sophisticated furniture.



*Hillwood's Roentgen roll-top desk*

Hillwood has arranged for transportation and boxed dinners. The cost is \$90 per person (not including cost of lunch). **To RSVP, call the volunteer reservation line 202.243.3942.** Once your reservation has been confirmed, you will receive additional information regarding the trip. **This trip is open to active volunteers only.** Due to space constraints, guests cannot be accommodated. **Please RSVP no later than November 5.**

### SAVE THE DATE!

You are invited to celebrate the holiday season at Hillwood with a **Volunteer and Member Holiday Reception on Tuesday, December 4 (5:30 – 7:30 pm)**! The evening's festivities will feature seasonal music, special programming, hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and exceptional company. Invitations to follow. For more information, please contact the Membership Department at 202.243.3939.

### Volunteer Wreath-Making Workshops November 28 through December 13

Join Horticulturist Bill Johnson to create a handmade wreath for your home, suitable for hanging outdoors. A \$25 fee covers all materials,

including fresh evergreens. Bill will schedule small groups on days you are already coming to volunteer. To schedule, call 202.243.3927 or [bjohnson@HillwoodMuseum.org](mailto:bjohnson@HillwoodMuseum.org) to e-mail.

### **Greens Workshop**

**December 5 (Wednesday), 1:30 p.m.**

Just in time for the holidays! Bill Johnson will help participants create a swag or a table top tree (choose one). We will be using fragrant evergreens and other seasonal materials. The \$10 fee will cover materials. The workshop is limited to 12 persons and will be held in the Horticulture break room.

### **Holiday Topiary Workshop**

**December 6 (Thursday), 1:30 p.m.**

Lead Gardener Jessica Bonilla has been creating beautiful topiary containers for the outdoor holiday display for the last three years. She has agreed to share her knowledge and lead a workshop. There will be a \$10 materials fee. The workshop is limited to 12 persons and will be held in the Horticulture break room.

### **Floral Design Workshop**

**December 20 (Thursday), 1:30 p.m.**

Jason Gedeik, Hillwood's Head of Greenhouse and Design Operations, will help participants create a long centerpiece for their mantel or a round centerpiece for their dining room table, using evergreens and other seasonal materials, including fresh flowers. If you want to bring other materials (holiday picks, ribbons, ornaments, etc.) that match your home décor, Jason will help you incorporate them into your design. There is a \$25 materials fee. The workshop is limited to 12 participants. Meet in the Horticulture break room.

## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS UPDATE**

*Erin Lourie, Adult Audiences Manager*

This fall, Hillwood began a new partnership with one of our closest neighbors: The Levine School of Music, located on Upton Street. Levine faculty

member Efraim Hackmey played selections from Tchaikovsky's *Seasons* on piano, and gave background insight to the pieces commissioned by Nikolai Bernard, editor of the musical periodical "Le Nouvelliste." **Inside Tchaikovsky's Seasons** was held at Hillwood in on **Saturday, October 13**. A second concert in this partnership will be presented at the Levine School of Music on March 23, 2013.

Hillwood's four-legged friends and their families are invited back for the second **Spooky Pooch Howl-o-ween Celebration** on **Saturday, October 27 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm**. Dogs can stroll with special access to the woodland paths, play "tricks for treats" and compete for the best costume prizes.

The holiday season here at Hillwood will bring **Fabulous Wreath Workshops on Saturdays, December 1 and 15**. Grandfather Frost and the Snowmaiden return on **December 8 and 9 for Russian Winter Festival**. Storyteller Arianna Ross joins this year's lineup in addition to Samovar Russian Folk Music Ensemble and the perennially popular kokoshnik and gentlemen's hat art activities.

As always, the most up-to-date information about upcoming public programs is listed under the "What's On" section of [hillwoodmuseum.org](http://hillwoodmuseum.org). Volunteers are admitted to lectures at the member rate. Most lectures will be recorded and posted to Vimeo following the event.

## **MUSEUM SHOP NEWS**

*Lauren Salazar, Head of Merchandising*

The summer was a busy time for buying as I attended the Atlanta Gift Mart, the San Francisco Gift Fair and the New York Gift Fair, sourcing new merchandise for the fall and holiday season, as well as spring 2013. Exciting new finds include faux luggage iPhone covers, ceramic matryoshka measuring cups set, Marie Antoinette catnip toys,

assorted French toys, and 3D puzzles of St. Basil's, to name a few. Shop early and shop often as the new items have started arriving!

### **New Staff:**

I'd like to welcome Carolyn Lynch as our seasonal sales associate. Carolyn brings many years of experience working at the National Cathedral Shop and Macy's. Please stop by the Museum Shop and welcome Carolyn to Hillwood.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- **Fall Fashion Boutique**  
**October 30 –November 4**  
**Visitor Center Second Floor**  
We are excited about the return of the Museum Shop Fall Fashion Boutique. We're stocking scarves, gloves, hats, gifts and more for this event. Special displays include winter wraps, French hair accessories, Belgian chocolates, and jeweled T-shirts from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- **Strathmore Museum Shop Around**  
**November 8 – November 11**  
**Strathmore Mansion, Rockville, MD**  
Join us at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Museum Shop Around! Over 15 area museum stores will participate, selling the fabulous gifts they're known for. The event is open 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Saturday and 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sunday.
- **Staff & Volunteer Holiday Sale**  
**December 1 – December 30**  
**Museum Shop**  
Staff & volunteers receive a 30% discount in the Museum Shop, an additional 10% above the usual discount! Discounts do not apply to sale merchandise. Merchandise may not be placed on hold prior to Sale.
- **Holiday Markdown Sale**  
**December 18 – January 20, 2013**  
**Museum Shop**

Christmas merchandise and other select merchandise will be steeply discounted. Stock up on gifts and ornaments!

## **VISITOR SERVICES NEWS**

*Annie Hinkley, Head of Visitor Services*

### **Café**

Our new café manager, Tom Jordan, started August 7. Tom has experience as an executive chef, chef manager and catering manager in various settings including a country club, NSAS, the National Institutes of Health Conference Center in Bethesda and the new White House Office Building dining room. So if you haven't already met him, stop by and say hello to Tom.

You might recall that in the spring the Café offered a menu to complement *The Style That Ruled the Empires* exhibition -- both the French and the Russian menus enjoyed great popularity. The Café is currently offering a "Belgian" special to accompany the *Prêt-à-Papier* exhibition. Ideas for the fall include a Belgian chocolate brownie and a "Soup of the day" (in addition to the perennial favorites -- Borscht and French Onion soup).

### **Visitor Services**

There have been a lot of changes in Visitor Services in the last six months so here is a chance to re-cap the members of the team and who works when.

I am the Head of Visitor Services. Reporting directly to me are Visitor Services Coordinators Katy Albertson, Lauren Strack and and Visitor Services Manager Arthur Kim. Reporting directly to Arthur are Visitor Services Associates Suzanne Hollingsworth, Jan Jensen and Caitlin Gillis. Arthur and I are scheduled to work Monday – Friday. Katy works Tuesday – Saturday and Lauren works Sundays in addition to four other weekdays. Suzanne works Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Jan works Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Caitlin is scheduled on Fridays,

Saturdays and our open Sundays and as well as every other Wednesday.

### **Attendance**

If spring was a “floral rush hour,” then June, July, August and early September have been the “long hot summer!” Of the 23 days Hillwood was open in July, 17 days were 90 degrees and above. Of those, seven days were 100 degrees and above. This had an effect on July’s visitation, but it rebounded in August and September. Year-to-date through the end of September, Hillwood attendance is up 15% compared to 2011.

Overall, you have helped us meet, greet and tour almost 53,000 guests so far this year. As always, we are so appreciative of everything you do to help us meet those needs.

Looking ahead, it will likely to be an exciting autumn and holiday season -- our open Sundays for the remainder of the year are: October 21, November 4 and 25, and December 9 and 30.

### **JANUARY HOURS**

To meet the ever-increasing demand from audiences, Hillwood will be open from Tuesday, January 1 to Sunday, January 20, 2013 (inauguration weekend). We’ll close to the public from Monday, January 21 to Friday, February 1 to clean and keep the Mansion maintained to the pristine standards for which it is known. Hillwood will reopen to the public on Saturday, February 2.

### **THE MUMS HAVE ARRIVED!**

*Jody Fetzer, Garden Supervisor*

A heart-felt thank you to all who assisted with the planting of 2,242 chrysanthemums for Hillwood’s fall seasonal displays in our formal gardens and containers. For a special treat, wander through the Cutting Garden to discover tall chrysanthemums growing in rows and supported by netting to

encourage straight stems suitable for the floral arrangements displayed in the Mansion, Café and Visitor Center.



*Mums in the French Parterre*

### **HILLWOOD APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

*Lynn Rossotti,*

*Director of Marketing & Communications*

On August 29, Judith Paska joined Hillwood as the new director of development. Paska, a Maryland native, brings over 20 years of museum and arts related fundraising experience to this senior leadership role at Hillwood.

“With her impressive track record in museum development and her keen understanding of Hillwood’s distinct objectives, Judith will bring a professional, creative, and entrepreneurial energy to our fundraising efforts,” said Hillwood executive director, Kate Markert. “Hillwood is only a few years into the practice of fundraising and Judith’s guidance will be a great boon to our staff, volunteers, and trustees as we devise and

implement new initiatives, including broadening our donor and member support.”

From 2000 to 2012, Paska was vice director for development at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, where, as the senior executive in charge of all contributed revenue, she successfully integrated a \$130 million capital and endowment campaign with the ongoing fundraising efforts. During her tenure there, she also stewarded two \$1 million plus corporate sponsorships, brought membership contributions to over \$1 million annually, and was a leader in three strategic planning efforts.

Prior to joining the Brooklyn Museum, Paska gained substantial experience as the senior development officer for the Cleveland Museum of Art, the director of development communications for the Cleveland Playhouse, and as an independent fundraising consultant. Paska holds a master of arts degree in Art History from the University of California, Berkeley and a bachelor's degree in art history and English from The Johns Hopkins University.

As director of development, Paska will lead all facets of the fundraising program at Hillwood. She will oversee all development programs, including membership, board development, and individual and corporate support.

Judith is looking forward to getting to know the volunteers better at the upcoming Volunteer and Member Holiday Reception on Tuesday, December 4 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Invitations are forthcoming.

## **MANSION DISPLAY CHANGES**

*Compiled by Lisa Leyh,  
Interpretation Volunteer Manager*

A number of display changes have occurred in the Mansion over the past few weeks. Below you'll find a recap of the new displays:

### **Icon Room**

The Military Presentation Cup (last on view in the exhibition *The Styles that Ruled the Empires* this past spring and previously in the Visitor Center from 2000 – early 2012) is now on view in the Icon Room.



*Military Presentation Cup on view in the Icon Room*

Entering from the Russian Porcelain room, the cup is now located in the left wall case on the third shelf from the top (just above the Nuptial Crown). For more information on the Military Presentation Cup, please see page 244 in *A Taste for Splendor: Russian Imperial and European Treasures from the Hillwood Museum*.

### **French Drawing Room**

The Roentgen roll-top desk is on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York for the exhibition *Extravagant Inventions: The Princely Furniture of the Roentgens* (October 30, 2012 - January 27, 2013). The desk's temporary removal presents Hillwood with an opportunity to highlight another singular piece of furniture, the jewelry chest, and offer a rare view inside.

Jewelry coffers are rare. Only a privileged few would have needed such opulent furniture to guard jewels and other valuable personal items.

Two separate sections make up this exceptional and large example of a portable coffer used for easy transportation: a table and a chest with two handles. The piece is covered with cube marquetry of exotic woods stained to create an optical, three-dimensional effect. The whole is bound with gilt bronze mounts of extraordinary richness and sculptural quality. When opened the opulent chest reveals an interior with a lower section fitted with drawers for small valuables and a space above to accommodate larger leather jewelry boxes. You can appreciate how the purple wood that lines the interior has retained its brilliant tint because it was protected from exposure to direct light.



*Jewelry Chest on view in the French Drawing Room*

### **Breakfast Room Table**

2012 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Catherine the Great's coronation. She was the most celebrated and longest-ruling female leader of Russia, reigning from 1762 to 1796. Under her command, Russia increased in size and became recognized as a great European power. The nearby bust depicts Catherine in her later years.

Pieces from two of Catherine's porcelain services are on the table. Catherine celebrated the 22<sup>nd</sup>

anniversary of her reign by commissioning the 973-piece *Arabesque Service*. The delicate decoration was inspired by the then-recent excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum. The *Yacht Service* was likely created to coincide with her 1787 trip to the Crimea. The major difference from the *Arabesque Service's* decoration is the inclusion of the Imperial Yacht's merchant flag, presumably signifying the hopes for increased trade that Catherine's territorial gains brought to Russia.



*New display on the Breakfast Room table*

Hillwood is extremely grateful to Kathleen Durdin for generously loaning the majority of pieces displayed here.

## **FACILITIES HAPPENINGS**

*Don Rogers, Director of Facilities*

The Facilities department would like to welcome and introduce Alec Anderson; originally a part time employee, Alec has been hired full-time as our new Facilities Technician/Carpenter. He has a wide range of skills and led the installation of *Prêt-à-Papier*, working closely with Facilities and the Collections department. He is a welcome addition to our team.

The Facilities department will be installing several projects over the next few months with in-house team members and outside contractors. We recently installed security film on all first-floor windows in the Mansion. Not only will this help



to ensure security for the Mansion, but also protect against possible storm damage.

Facilities replaced two broken sections of concrete sidewalk in front of the Visitor Center, and installed additional railing directly in front of the Visitor Center entrance to take away the possibility of someone falling or tripping off of that section of sidewalk. We also replaced the broken section of the sidewalk to the right hand side of the C.W. Post Center staff door and the top step leading to the back parking lot.

Visitor Center parking lots and upper gate road have been restriped. New vehicle stop lines have been added on the ramp coming up from the Visitor Center lower deck, the ramp that leads down from the Visitor Center deck to the Camellia house, and the road coming up from the Steward House. We have also installed some additional stop signs at these locations. To aid in visitors, staff and volunteers seeing on-coming traffic, a convex mirror has been installed on the ramp to the Visitor Center lower parking. Stripping has also been added for the new delivery lane that is directly beside the entrance to the Visitor Center and the Library parking lot. Stripping behind the C.W. Post Center will be done later in the fall.

We are beginning a “green energy” lighting initiative by changing out the incandescent light bulbs to new LED bulbs in the Visitor Center, including the Visitor Center Theater and Museum Shop, as well as in the C.W. Post Center sitting area and all of the Café. This will allow us to cut the amount of heat off of the bulbs up to 40% and also reduce energy requirements from 50 watts to as little as 11 watts. This change will help us to reduce our carbon foot print and save utility dollars. We managed with the help of our electrical vendor, Shepherd Electric, to apply for an energy grant from the city that will refund 50% of the cost of the new lamps. This project will take place during the fall.

It has long been known the way delivery trucks arrive on the estate is to cross visitor paths. In an effort to minimize vehicle traffic on visitor routes during public hours, the Security Department has installed new driving barriers on the main drive near the Visitor Center and the Café. The new barriers steer traffic, especially delivery trucks, to the Visitor Center parking deck during Hillwood’s public hours rather than in the walking areas in front of the Visitor Center. Large vehicles, such as buses, will continue to drop off visitors at the Visitor Center and will be the only traffic on the main drive during public hours. Volunteers will continue to travel through the Visitor Center parking deck to reach the designated volunteer parking areas. As a reminder, the speed limit on Hillwood’s estate is 15 mph.

A few other projects that have been completed this year include the fumigation of the Adirondack Building, the change out of the HVAC systems in the Adirondack and the replacement of one of our main boilers in the Central Plant. These projects were handled by our Chief Engineer Lynwood Campbell. Hillwood Electrician Ken Regotti installed three small generators that will supply emergency power to the Administration Building, Camellia House and the Steward House. Facilities Technicians Luis Espinal and Brandon Brown have completed multiple plumbing and general projects, such as jetting out our storm drains and cleaning gutters. We have also consolidated storage locations all across the property and assist in bringing some offsite storage onto the property. We always have team members assisting in the setups and tear-downs as well as working all events and open Sundays.

Current and upcoming projects include rehabbing the tile floors in the Visitor Center, continuous carpet cleaning; exhibition builds, rehabbing the Adirondack Building and Dacha into event spaces when not used for exhibitions and on-going maintenance of the buildings.

## POLITICAL SOLICITATION AND LOBBYING

*Michael Dudich, Director of Human Resources*

As the 2012 election season moves into full swing, it's important to remember that as a private foundation, Hillwood is prohibited from engaging in any form of political solicitation. In other words, "Hillwood" never takes a stand on political candidates, provides them with campaign contributions, or works actively for their election. When it comes to lobbying the answer is simply NO! A private foundation that lobbies in an effort to influence legislation on any level (federal, state or local), in any capacity is at risk of losing its tax-exempt status.

Being a Hillwood volunteer doesn't preclude you from participating in the political process as an individual. However, it's important that you take care to assure that you never engage in political or lobbying activities on our behalf, or put yourself in a position where it could be misinterpreted that you are acting on our behalf or in an official capacity.

Many volunteers are engaged with social networking websites, blogs and wiki's in their personal lives. If you regularly participate in activity through social media outlets that could be construed as lobbying, political commentary, endorsements, or solicitation of any type, Hillwood strongly encourages that you not reference Hillwood in your profile. If you do reference Hillwood, you should add a disclaimer to your activities "that the views are my own and do not reflect those of Hillwood."

Also remember that you are responsible for the content of what others post on your page or site as well. Hillwood is not in any way trying to limit your personal online activities, but it's important that you understand the impact your online activities could have on Hillwood.

## A LEGACY OF LACE RETURNS TO THE HILLWOOD MUSEUM

*Howard Vincent Kurtz,  
Associate Curator of Costumes and Textiles*

Marjorie Post was very fond of lace and amassed a great deal of this beautiful decorative art form over her lifetime. She began collecting lace at a very young age while traveling with her father to Europe. Marjorie collected these works of art for their beauty and fine craftsmanship. For years she was a member of the Needle and Bobbin Club, a group of individuals interested in lace, based in New York City. The club held its first meeting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1916. The bylaws of the organization included the following objectives: "to encourage and maintain interest in hand-made fabrics; to promote these industries in the United States; to afford opportunities to meet and discuss lace or allied subjects; to be notified of sales, exhibits, and lectures; if possible to visit private collections ..." Throughout her lifetime, Marjorie invited the club members to her homes to view her extensive collection of lace.

An article from the 1925 Needle and Bobbin Club bulletin describes Marjorie's acquisition of the *point de gaze* wedding veil worn by Princess Stephanie of Belgium, for her marriage to Archduke Rudolph of Austria in 1881. Marjorie's oldest daughter, Adelaide wore the veil when she married Thomas Durant in 1927. Marjorie gave the veil to the Smithsonian Institution in 1964. The veil was on temporary loan from the Smithsonian and displayed at the Hillwood Museum for the exhibit, *Wedding Belles: Bridal Fashions from the Marjorie Merriweather Post Collection, 1874 to 1958*. Read more about the veil at <http://blog.americanhistory.si.edu/osaycanyousee/2011/06/the-finer-details-of-the-hapsburg-imperial-bridal-veil.html>

There was renewed interest in a permanent lace display after the *Wedding Belles* exhibition. Discussions at Hillwood reaffirmed the museum's vision statement to present ... "the extraordinary

life and legacy of Marjorie Merriweather Post by developing the resources she left in trust to their fullest potential for future generations.” Hillwood greatly appreciates the assistance of the following donors, all of whom helped to make the lace case possible: The Chesapeake Region Lace Guild, Jean Astrop, Carol Bresler, Sherley Koteen, and Mary Lou Steptoe.

The case, designed by Lawrence (Ren) Wang, Head of Exhibitions and Collections, fits perfectly with the furnishings, cabinetry, and décor of the Mansion. The case is located in the large closet of the Bedroom Suite, with three pull out drawers that will showcase Marjorie’s collection of exquisite lace. The case drawers will ensure these fragile examples of the lace maker’s art are only exposed to light for a brief period of time while our visitors admire them. Individual pieces will be changed periodically, so that the public will have access to more of the 3,000 items currently in the collection. The newest addition to the Mansion is truly one of Marjorie’s lasting legacies to the museum.



*The new lace case in the large closet in Mrs. Post’s Bedroom Suite*

During the *Prêt à Papier* exhibition, the case will display several examples of Belgian needle and bobbin lace.



*With three drawers for visitors to open, the case will feature a rotating collection of lace*

## **SECURITY OFFICERS TO RECEIVE SPECIAL TRAINING, CERTIFICATION**

*Betty Cochran, Newsletter Volunteer*

Hillwood expects a lot from its security officers, says Jim Sellevaag, who has been head of the Security Department here since June 2011. “On a 25-acre campus, they are covering multiple buildings with highly valuable items, in a setting in which a great number of visitors and volunteers are engaging in a variety of activities,” he points out.

The department is preparing to provide more training for its staff, Jim says, through a program that will certify them as institutional protection specialists. This professional certification comes from the International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection, which offers training and professional development activities for people who protect cultural properties. First the department’s four supervisors, and then, in shifts, the 14 officers, will receive a full day of training in such areas as customer service, emergency response, conflict resolution, and legal considerations related to security activities. Jim, who is certified as an instructor, will provide the training.

“Customer service is one of the fundamentals of security in an environment like ours,” Jim says. “It really is good security to look visitors in the eye, speak respectfully and politely, and offer assistance when needed. Engaging people does two things: it gives visitors a good experience, and it may deter someone from criminal behavior—people with criminal intent don’t want to be noticed.”

“There are special considerations, obviously, in dealing with a collection—special and rare things need extra guarding,” Jim says. “People of all ages access the space, from children to older adults.” Sometimes a guard’s actions may be as straightforward as discouraging a visitor from touching an object, such as someone tempted to find out what a dress in the *Prêt-à-Papier* exhibition feels like.

Jim came to Hillwood from Marriott International, in Bethesda, where he coordinated the planning for security systems for new and newly converted Marriott hotels and motels worldwide. He had also worked in loss-prevention aspects of security for Marriott.

Jim was born in Connecticut and raised in southern New Jersey, and he graduated from Northeastern University in Boston with a major in criminal justice. He and his wife, Kelly, and their son, Nicholas, age four and a half, live in Rockville. Outside of work, Jim is interested in sports and is an avid soccer player; his favorite activities, besides spending time with his son, include playing in a local soccer league.

Some restructuring has taken place in the Security Department since Jim’s arrival at Hillwood last year, including three promotions. Early this year Adam Reza became associate head of security, and David Patterson became day-shift supervisor. This spring Takako Nagai was promoted to evening-shift supervisor. Tony Blakney continues as supervisor of the midnight shift, a post he has held for 18 years.

It’s important for security officers to know what they’re guarding and why it’s important, Jim says, and to present themselves in a professional manner. “Hillwood has some of the best officers and supervisors I’ve ever worked with,” he says. “It’s a great, team-oriented crew, and it’s a joy to work with them.”

## **PLANT PROFILE: COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE**

*Ann Stevens Kelly, Garden Volunteer*

The Colorado Blue Spruce, *Picea pungens*, is a glaucous (bluish green due to a fine whitish coating) conifer with a pyramidal form planted singularly or in groups as a choice specimen in gardens. This tall, stately tree is especially popular because of its vibrant blue-green color and attractive shape. A number of them decorate the grounds at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens.

A beautiful pair of *Picea pungens* var. *glauca* are located outside the entrance to the Motor Court in front of the Mansion. They were selected at a local nursery in 1992 by Bill Johnson to match in color and symmetry as replacements for the Colorado Blue Spruces in the same location. They were replaced because they had lost their ornamental value when the lower branches were lost as the trees matured. The design intent for this formal setting requires matching plants with the branches to the ground. It takes about 40 years for the lower branches to get shaded out and die so this is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> set of Colorado Blue Spruce in this design.

Two other blue spruces in front of the house by the Pavilion are the cultivar Hoops Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens* ‘Hoopsii’), a fast growing cultivar with beautiful steel blue foliage, with a slightly irregular, open growth habit. Others are found along the main drive and in the large beds around the Lunar Lawn. Several of a dwarf variety are in the Japanese-style Garden and

are pruned regularly by Frances Vandenbroucke to maintain their size and shape.



*A pair of Colorado Blue Spruces  
in front of the Motor Court*

The Colorado Blue Spruce is part of the pine family Pinaceae, and it is also commonly referred to as Colorado Spruce and Blue Spruce. It is defined by its Latin name of *Picea* for pitch in the resin of its bark, *pungens* for its sharp-pointed needle-like leaves, and *glauca* for the bluish-gray green of its needles. The stiff, sharp, prickly four-sided needles of the Colorado Blue Spruce are blue-green, blue or silver-blue and radiate straight out from its shoots with a thicker than normal waxy coating.

It has a pyramidal or columnar crown form with stiff horizontal, tiered branches to the ground and purplish gray bark. In its native Rocky Mountains habitat, it will grow to 75 feet but is usually seen in landscapes in the east at about half that size where it is used as a specimen tree, screen or Christmas tree. It ranges 10 to 20 feet in diameter except for the dwarf varieties. Pruning should be done only to shape the spruce. Removing part of

each year's growth will force side growth, slow the tree's growth, and make it denser.

A hardy tree, the Colorado Blue Spruce is one of the few spruces that tolerates city conditions since it is the most drought tolerate of the spruces, although it prefers moist soil and benefits from a layer of mulch extending beyond the branches to help retain moisture. Hillwood's blue spruces are situated to give them the full sun to light shade that these cone-bearing trees require. Its cones are pendulous three to five inches long, and initially reddish to violet in color, maturing to pale brown. *Glauca* (Colorado Blue Spruce) is the forma or variety name for all of the bluish-gray green cultivars. In addition to the 'Hoopsii' with blue-white foliage mentioned earlier, other cultivar varieties include:

- 'Bakeri,' a 12-foot by six-foot upright spruce with blue foliage.
- 'Bizon Blue', a new dense, symmetrical 40-foot tall by 15-foot wide, blue-silver spruce.
- 'Koster', silvery blue foliage with irregular growth habit.
- 'Moerheimii', compact and symmetrical with powder blue foliage.
- 'Montgomery', dwarf shrub five feet tall with silvery gray-blue foliage.
- 'Mrs. Cesarini', a six-foot tall by five-foot wide dwarf shrub with blue-green foliage.
- 'Thompson', intensely blue growing to 30 feet.
- 'Totem,' a 15-foot tall, very narrow, blue-green spruce.
- 'Glauca Globosa,' a dwarf specimen maturing to 3 to 5 feet tall by 4 to 6 feet wide. It has received the Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.

When Colorado Blue Spruce is grown east of Colorado, it survives well, but may not always look its best because of its susceptibility to pests and disease, especially spider mites, canker, and spruce aphids. It is hardy in zones 2 to 8.

Nevertheless, its many cultivars are widely used in the east as ornamental trees, and the Colorado Blue Spruce is popular not only for its beauty, but also because it is attractive to birds, is deer resistant and works well as a privacy screen. Its height and density make blue spruce better suited to large properties like Hillwood, but some of the dwarf varieties would be lovely blue-green accents in smaller residential gardens.

## LUCKY DOG ANIMAL RESCUE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

*Michael Dudich, Director of Human Resources*



Lucky Dog is an all-volunteer, DC based organization dedicated to saving homeless dogs and educating the public about responsible pet ownership. Several of our staff members have adopted dogs from them. Lucky Dog will be

holding an adoption show at Hillwood's Spooky Pooch Howl-o-ween Celebration on Saturday, October 27 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

As part of our ongoing community service initiative, Hillwood will be collecting needed items in support of Lucky Dog's efforts. **Starting Monday, October 22 and continuing through Friday, October 26 we will have collection bins in the Horticulture Break Room and the CW Post Break Room.** Special thanks to Jessica Bonilla, lead gardener and Rebecca Singer, youth audience manager, for serving as the coordinators for collection activities. We are not able to accept cash contributions as part of the collection program. If you wish to make a cash contribution, please visit the Lucky Dog website:

<http://www.luckydoganimalrescue.org/donate/donate-online>

Please add Lucky Dog to your weekly shopping list! Below is a list of the types of items (new or gently used) needed to keep turning shelter dogs into Lucky Dogs!

- Crates – All Sizes, Wire and Plastic
- Leashes, Harnesses and Collars
- Dog Food
- Dog Treats
- Dog Toys
- Dog Bowls
- Paper Towels, Bleach, and Used Towels

Lucky Dog Animal Rescue has a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization as recognized by the IRS. All in-kind donations are tax deductible in line with IRS requirements for documentation/valuation.

## HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

*Jason Gedeik, Head of Greenhouse & Design Operations  
& Audra Kelly, Head of Interpretation*

The holidays will be soon upon us, and Hillwood staff has been busy planning the decorations since early summer. The Mansion and Visitor Center will feature the traditional poinsettias although you'll see some new cultivars being used such as 'Orange Spice', 'Shimmer Surprise' and my personal favorite 'Avant-garde Marble' – a variegated white and rose pink mix. We'll be trying something new in the Visitor Center as a way to tie in with the *Prêt-à-Papier* exhibit which runs through the end of December. Staff and volunteers will be handcrafting paper ornaments for the tree that duplicate the kaftan dresses hanging in the Visitor Center. Long chains of gold paper circles will also decorate the tree.

The holidays will also influence the table displays in the Mansion Dining Room and Breakfast Room. The Dining Room table will feature the white and gold Limoges porcelain table service commissioned by Marjorie for use at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Brussels, and will be augmented with a red tablecloth and miniature

Christmas trees decked with tinsel on the table. The display will be inspired by another historical photograph, just as the current display is. The Breakfast Room will be festooned with the green Jacob Petit porcelain service.



*Table set for Christmas Dinner, Brussels, 1938*

You'll notice a few new additions to the Pavilion's holiday decorations. Returning this year are the Soviet-era glass ornaments on loan to Hillwood and displayed on a tree; new will be a display of Russian toys and a Russian painting of a Christmas scene, all from Hillwood's collection. And of course, don't forget the infamous kissing ball hanging in the Mansion Entry Hall! Holiday decorations will be up for you to enjoy by Tuesday, November 20.

## **KUDOS FOR VOLUNTEERS**

*Lisa Leyh, Interpretation Volunteer Manager*

The summer came to a close with three fabulous public programs (two with recording breaking attendance!) in September. As always, your dedication to giving our visitors access and information about Hillwood is key for programs such as these. Thank you for helping make a month packed with a number of special offerings available to our visitors.

## **Gay Day**

On Saturday, September 15, Hillwood hosted our highest attended Gay Day in history with 673 guests; this number included several groups and custom tour requests. Paper fashion and floral splendor set the scene as Hillwood united with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) community for this day of celebration in the gracious tradition of Marjorie Post.

Thank you for your assistance with making another memorable day for our visitors:

Electra Beahler	Jo Anne Jelling
Janice Brambilla	Susan Lund
Mollie Ann Church	Yani Partowardojo
Kris Clark	Delia Riso
Cynthia Darling	Chris Ritthaler
Gale Dugan	Harold Schafke
Ken Garrison	Marilyn Shapiro
Phyllis Gerstell	Bill Steffeck
Donna Graif	Erica Stern
Shirley Hart	Lois Stratton
Carolee Heileman	Kevin Tomaine
Wilhelmina Irshad	Lois Topping

## **Nuit de la Mode**

Despite the threat of severe thunderstorms, Hillwood's second year offering *Nuit de la Mode* was a success with 322 visitors enjoying a night celebrating fashion, international art and culture. The beautiful paper gowns, dresses, and costumes of Belgian artist Isabelle de Borchgrave in the exhibition *Prêt-à-Papier* were the backdrop and inspiration for this evening event.

Thank you for making *Nuit de la Mode* a success:

Reshma Ballie	Susan Lund
McGowan	Celia Steingold
Mollie Ann Church	Lois Stratton
Kris Clark	Maggi Walker
Wilhelmina Irshad	

## **Museum Day Live!**

For the second year, Hillwood participated in *Museum Day Live!* In the spirit of Smithsonian museums, who offer free admission every day, *Museum Day Live!* is an annual event hosted by

*Smithsonian* magazine in which participating museums across the country open their doors to anyone presenting a Museum Day Ticket for free.

Thank you for assisting with one of our busiest Saturdays in Hillwood history:

Janice Brambilla	Angela Meyer
Kris Clark	Yani Partowardojo
Martin Conover	Charlotte Peddicord
Cynthia Darling	Kaki Power
Gale Dugan	Carol Roberts
Ken Garrison	Marilyn Shapiro
Phyllis Gerstell	Kathryn Thoreson
Kathi Haley	Kevin Tomaine
Ilse Higgins	Lois Topping
Wilhelmina Irshad	Kathy Tutem
Natasha Jadan	Maggi Walker
Susan Lund	Kiska Williams

### **Fall Garden Tours**

With the fall garden touring season concluding on Saturday, November 10, we'll say a temporary farewell to our dedicated Garden Docents. To date, over 700 visitors have enjoyed a guided garden tour this fall. Thank you for another amazing season! We're eager to see you back at Hillwood next spring.

### **CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS**

#### **Russian Winter Festival**

This year's Russian Winter Festival will be held on Saturday, December 8 (10:00 am – 7:00 pm) and Sunday, December 9 (1:00 – 5:00 pm). Volunteer assistance will be needed in the Visitor Center, Mansion, and with special programming and activities. If you are available, please contact Lisa Leyh at 202.243.3938 or [LLeyh@HillwoodMuseum.org](mailto:LLeyh@HillwoodMuseum.org).

### **'Tis the Season to...help us make ornaments and decorate Hillwood for the holidays!**

*Angie Dodson,*

*COO/ Director of Interpretation and Visitor Services*

#### **Ornament-Making**

Daily, October 29-November 9 (may finish before the 9<sup>th</sup>—we'll let you know!) | 10am-5pm | Mansion Resource Room

In preparation for the coming holiday season, we're having some good fun related to the *Prêt-à-Papier* exhibition starting Monday, October 29, we'll equip the Mansion Resource Room *a la* Isabelle de Borchgrave's Belgian *atelier*—think paper-a-plenty, scissors, glue sticks, etc... And, just as she and her studio assistants work as a creative collective—so shall we—gathered around the big work table, cutting and pasting decorations for the Visitor Center's holiday tree!

The big idea is for us to make a couple hundred ornaments inspired by the kaftans hanging in the Visitor Center and some paper garlands made to look like the Isabelle necklaces for sale in the shop. We'll have easy-to-follow instructions and prepped materials—we just need you to come together with us as we cut and paste...and chat and laugh!



*Kaftan ornament for the Visitor Center tree*

So, if you can come early or stay late after your usual stint...or if you want to come in especially to craft, please do! Staff will come and go as we



are able. And, know that self-directed instructions will be on hand even if we aren't!

Just let Lisa Leyh know at 202.243.3938 or [LLeyh@HillwoodMuseum.org](mailto:LLeyh@HillwoodMuseum.org) if/when you're planning to lend a hand.

### **Decorating**

November 18 & 19 | Hours and Location TBD

And, for anyone looking to help decorate this year, please let us know if you'd like to join us for the two-day decorating extravaganza...we can always use extra hands (time and talent, too!) for this all-out assault on the estate! So, if you've got a couple of hours, half-day, whatever—come on! Please contact Bill Johnson at 202.243.3927 or [bjohnson@HillwoodMuseum.org](mailto:bjohnson@HillwoodMuseum.org) to sign-up.

### **NEW VOLUNTEERS**

We are delighted to welcome 13 new volunteers to Hillwood. Joining Interpretation are Jennifer Clary, Martin Conover, Feriala Fallah, John Hibbits, Beth Johnson, Rick Mahan, Betsy Muri, Rosalyn Rettman and Holly Tank. Joining Horticulture are Jeri Buchholz, Joanna Edwards, Jessica Neal, and Cari Romeu.

### **SPREAD THE WORD!**

At your next volunteer shift, encourage visitors to explore our Facebook and Twitter pages to stay up-to-date on the latest Hillwood facts and upcoming events. Links to both sites are available below:

Hillwood's Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/HillwoodMuseum>

Hillwood's Twitter page:

<https://twitter.com/HillwoodMuseum>

### **ORCHID SPOTLIGHT**

*Jason Gedeik, Head of Greenhouse & Design Operations*



*Stanhopea Ronsard*

*Photograph by Prabhdeep Chamla,  
Orchid Collection Volunteer*

If you visited the Greenhouse at the end of August, you would have seen the dramatic blooms of Stanhopea Ronsard (*wardii* x *oculata*). The sweet-scented blooms emerge from the bottom of the basket and last only a day or two. The smell is like chocolate powder and vanilla. This hybrid cross was made in France by the famous orchid firm of Marcel Lecoufle.

### **IN MEMORIAN: MARY JANNEY**

*Kate Markert, Executive Director*

It is with sadness that I advise you of the death of Mary Draper Janney on Sunday evening, October 7, 2012. Mary, as you may know, was an Emeritus Trustee at Hillwood, and had been a Hillwood Trustee and supporter for many years. She was frequently here for lunch and to use the library in recent years. We will certainly miss her. Continued on the following page you'll find the obituary which was published in *The Washington Post* on October 10, 2012.



### **MARY DRAPER JANNEY (Age 91)**

A long time civic activist, died in the George Washington University Hospital on Sunday, October 7, 2012. A native of Brooklyn, NY, she graduated from Vassar College in 1942. Among her many accomplishments, she taught American History at The Potomac School in McLean, VA. She co-founded Wider Opportunities for Women in 1966, a organization devoted to the education, training, and employment of women. She was named "Washingtonian of the Year" by Washingtonian Magazine for her work with WOW. She also served as Executive Director of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington and founded the Women's College Assistance Project that sought to help women on welfare escape poverty through access to education. From 1983 to 1987, she was Chair of the Board of Vassar College. At age 85, she became the Director of the Bard College Clemente Course in the Humanities at the Latin American Youth Center. She was a member of the board of the Hillwood Museum. She was a member of the Cosmos and the Chevy Chase clubs. Towards the end of her life, she was asked which of her achievements was the most gratifying. She replied without hesitation, "being a mentor"; she was proud that many young people she had counseled over the years continued to seek her advice. She was also an avid sailor and tennis player. She was predeceased by her husband, Frederick Wistar Janney, who died in 1979. She is survived by her two sons, Dr. Peter Janney of Beverly, MA and Christopher Janney; her daughter-in-law, Terrell Lamb, and two grandchildren, Frederick and Lillian of Lexington, MA. Memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 13 at 11 a.m. at All Souls Church Unitarian, 1500 Harvard St., NW.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mrs. Janney's honor to the Latin American Youth Center, 1419 Columbia Road, NW, Washington, DC 20009. Arrangements by DeVol.

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