



The Post Serial

Volunteer Newsletter of Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens

Volume 18, Issue 2

Spring 2012

PRÊT-À-PAPIER

THE EXQUISITE ART OF



ISABELLE DE BORCHGRAVE

Crumpled, pleated, painted, and sculpted -- ordinary paper becomes haute couture in the hands of the Belgian artist

Lynn Rossotti, Director of Marketing and Communications

A selection of iconic dresses, reinterpreted in *trompe l'oeil* paper masterpieces by Belgian artist Isabelle de Borchgrave, is presented in the exhibition *Prêt-à-Papier: The Exquisite Art of Isabelle De Borchgrave*, on view at Hillwood from June 16 to December 30, 2012. The first exhibition of the artist's work to be presented in Washington, DC, *Prêt-à-Papier* will bring together more than 25 of de Borchgrave's quintessential interpretations of historical costumes and haute couture dresses, with six new works made for this exhibition, including one commissioned solely for Hillwood.

For over 15 years, inspired by the rich history of fashion represented in European paintings, famous costumes in museum collections, and designs of the grand couturiers, de Borchgrave has turned her passion for painting toward the recreation of elaborate costumes – crumpling, pleating, braiding, and painting the surface of simple rag paper to achieve the effect of textiles and create the illusion of haute couture.



“Hillwood founder Marjorie Merriweather Post absolutely loved the lavish apparel of the Russian imperial family and 18th-century French aristocracy, and was equally passionate about modern couture,” explained Hillwood executive director Kate Markert. “This is all seen in the objects and personal items she collected and left for the public to enjoy at Hillwood, making it a perfect venue to showcase Isabelle de Borchgrave’s exquisite works of art,” she continued. “We’re thrilled that this exhibition launches a new program at

Hillwood that adds contemporary and outdoor initiatives to the current presentation of exhibitions to offer added perspectives on the collections, gardens, and the Marjorie Merriweather Post life story.”

Highlights

By reconstructing dresses from key periods in fashion history, including gowns worn by famous figures and those created by prominent fashion designers, *Prêt-à-Papier* will present a range of styles from the late 17th to the early 20th century. The exhibition will be presented in Hillwood’s Adirondack Building and will also animate spaces in the Mansion and Visitor Center, reinterpreting both the art objects and Post’s extraordinary collection of 20th-century apparel.



The sumptuous apparel of the royalty of the 18th and 19th centuries revered by Post, and depicted in the paintings and decorative arts she collected, will take on an added dimension in the work of de Borchgrave. The costumes of Tsar Peter the Great and Empress Josephine, for example, come to life, with de Borchgrave’s own intricate painting and manipulation of the paper convincingly mimicking the finest brocades, damasks, and silks. For the work commissioned by Hillwood, de Borchgrave draws inspiration from the life-like details, textures, and opulent colors of the main figure’s dress in Karl Briullov’s *The Countess Samoilova*. This dress will be displayed in the Pavilion at Hillwood with the grand-scale painting that inspired it, along with a *Boyar Wedding Dress* that de Borchgrave

interpreted from the sister painting to Hillwood’s *A Boyar Wedding Feast* – Konstantin Makovsky’s *The Russian Bride’s Attire*, at the San Francisco Legion of Honor.

The period styles will be joined by works inspired by turn-of-the-century fashion designers Mariano Fortuny and Charles Frederick Worth. Classic, crisp Fortuny pleats – the construction of which still remains a mystery to most – are recreated expertly in a series of dresses based on the famous designs, while the glamorous construction and intricate details of a Worth gown stand out in a pure white couture creation. Post herself favored the evening looks of Callot Soeurs. And in Post’s dressing room, visitors will barely discern that the detailed lace, ribbons, and lamé of a 1920s style dress from the prominent Parisian fashion house are crafted completely from paper.

The Artist

A painter by training and by passion, Isabelle de Borchgrave turned her talent for trompe l’oeil to the paper sculptures that reinterpret and recreate almost 300 years of fashion after a 1994 trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. With fashion historian, Rita Brown, she set out to create *Papiers à la Mode*, a collection of costumes, all in paper and paint that offered a fresh look at fashion history, from Elizabeth I to Coco Chanel. Her collections that followed included an immersive dive into the 19th-century Venice-inspired line from *Fortuny*, a look at the famous figures of *I Medici*, and *Ballet Russes*, whose playful figures and saturated colors nod to her love of the Nabis movement. Over the 15-year period since, de Borchgrave has also created commissions for museum collections in America and Europe. De Borchgrave’s name is also readily associated with the world of design. For



Caspari she has created popular paper dinnerware and other products for entertaining. With Gien, Target, and Villeroy & Boch, she has brought her bright colors and exciting patterns to a world of entertaining that is accessible for all.

Opening Gala

Honorary Chair, His Excellency Jan Matthysen, Ambassador of Belgium, invites you to celebrate the opening of *Prêt-à-Papier: The Exquisite Art of Isabelle de Borchgrave* on Thursday, June 14 with a cocktail reception at 6:30 p.m. followed by a seated dinner at 7:30 p.m. (black-tie attire). Join renowned Belgian artist Isabelle de Borchgrave for a preview of her new exhibition and an elegant dinner on the Lunar Lawn. Individual tickets may be reserved for \$250 and \$500 each. Tables available at \$2,500. Sponsorships are also available. For more information contact Alison Cassels at 202.243.3974 or acassels@hillwoodmuseum.org.

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. 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

April 25 (Wednesday), 9 a.m.

The April walk will explore some of Hillwood's flowering plants, with a focus on the flowering trees.

Plant ID Walk

May 2 (Wednesday), 9 a.m.

The May plant walk will have an emphasis on the flowering shrubs in the garden as well as other flowering plants.

Save the Date

Attend a garden party in your honor!
Please join Hillwood staff for the annual
Spring Volunteer Appreciation Reception
on **Monday, May 7 (5 – 7 p.m.)**.
To RSVP, please call 202.243.3942 by April 30.

Field Trip:

The Private Garden of Gail Gee

May 14 (Monday) 10 a.m.



Private Garden of Gail Gee

In 2001 Gail Gee became serious about her garden in Fulton, Maryland. Gail's spectacular garden is becoming known as one of the finer residential gardens in the area. Photos of her garden are showing up in such magazines as *Fine Gardening*. The garden is known for its outstanding peony collection (which could be in full glory for our visit) and features wonderful

color combination in the English style. This three-acre paradise was created as Gail's personal pleasure garden. We are very fortunate to be one of only two groups that she will share her garden with this season. Use the sign-up sheet in the Horticulture Building hallway to receive directions or car-pool information.

Floral Design Workshop

May 14 (Monday), 2 p.m.

Floral design volunteer Diane Pirkey will share some floral arranging techniques in designing a spring basket. The simple techniques that Diane will share with you can use on your own to make special arrangements for different occasions throughout the spring season. Diane has had a lot of experience with floral arranging, at several area institutions and has had formal training at Longwood Gardens, the National Cathedral, and has worked with commercial florists in the Rehoboth Beach area.

There will be a \$15 materials fee to be paid at the workshop, which will cover all supplies and flowers for your take home arrangement. This session is limited to 12 participants. Meet in the horticulture break room.

Hanging-Basket Workshop

May 17 (Thursday), 1 p.m.

Join Bill Johnson in the Greenhouse workroom to create your own summer-flowering hanging basket. There will be a selection of trailing foliage and flowering plants. A \$15 fee covers the cost of materials. The session is limited to 10 participants.

Mixed Container Workshop

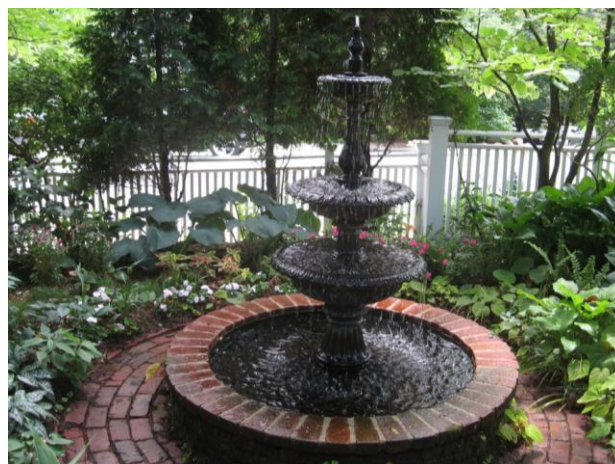
May 24 (Thursday), 1 p.m.

Bill Johnson will provide inspiration to help you create your own patio container of summer-flowering plants. A \$10 fee covers the cost of materials. The session is limited to 10 participants; please meet in the Greenhouse workroom.

Field Trip:

The Private Garden of Holly Shimizu

June 3 (Sunday), 2 p.m.



Private Garden of Holly Shimizu

After all the bright colors of spring, June is the time when green becomes one of the dominant colors of the garden. We will have a chance to study the glory of green in this enchanting garden. Holly Shimizu was the first curator of the National Herb Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum and is currently the executive director of the U.S. Botanic Garden on the National Mall. This trip is a great opportunity to visit a small, well-designed private garden in Glen Echo, Maryland. The garden was designed by Holly and her husband, garden designer Osamu Shimizu. Use the sign-up sheet in the Horticulture Building hallway to receive directions or car-pool information.

Plant ID Walk

June 13 (Wednesday), 9 a.m.

In this session, we will focus on the plants in and around the Adirondack Building, including many native plants.

Prêt-à-Papier: A Curator's Insights

June 25 (Monday) at 1 p.m.

June 26 (Tuesday) at 6:30 p.m.

Belgian artist Isabelle de Borchgrave is a painter with a singular "twist". Painting and manipulating paper, de Borchgrave creates a world of splendor, crafting *trompe l'oeil* masterpieces inspired by rich

depictions in early European painting or by iconic costumes in museum collections around the world. Liana Paredes, chief curator and curator of the exhibition, will explore the magical and immersive experience of working with Isabelle and her studio to create this singular and stunning ensemble of French 18th century court gowns, Russian costumes and exquisitely artistic early 20th-century dresses, all made out of simple reams of paper.

Plant ID Walk

July 5 (Thursday), 9 a.m.

This session will focus on the plants in and around the French Parterre and Rose Garden. Meet in the Horticulture break room.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS UPDATE

Erin Lourie, Adult Audiences Manager

As our volunteers well know, April and May are Hillwood's busiest months. When the gardens and weather are amazing, we get tremendous crowds. As a result, the interpretation department steps back from weekend programs during peak season. We use this relatively slow time to gear up for a busy June. As always, the best place for up-to-date information about public programs is at our website, hillwoodmuseum.org/calendar

On **Thursday, April 19**, Hillwood partners with the National Cherry Blossom Festival, celebrating its own centennial, to present a lecture on 100 years of kimono design. Historian and author Dominic Lieven will speak about his book, *Russia Against Napoleon: The True Story of the Campaigns of War and Peace* on **Tuesday, April 24** in conjunction with *The Style that Ruled the Empires: Russia, Napoleon and 1812* exhibition, which marks the 200th anniversary of Napoleon's invasion of Russian. This is one of the first works to tell the story of 1812 from the Russian perspective.

Preschool Programs continue to happen three Thursdays a month through June, before a two-month summer vacation. **Friday, April 27**, we

present our third annual Family Movie Night, in partnership with the Québec Government Office, in association with Kids World Cinema, DC.

In May, we partner with The Cultural Landscape Foundation for their "What's Out There Weekend." On **Thursday, May 10**, we'll present a lecture on Italian Garden Design and its influence in American gardens. On **Saturday, May 19**, Hillwood will be one of several locations throughout the city hosting garden tours. (This tour is limited to 15 people maximum, and reservations are required through "What's Out There Weekend.")

Annual June favorites return, including **Divas Outdoors Classic Films Under the Stars**, **Seersucker Social**, booths at **Capital Pride street festival**, and our **Russian Roots Family Camp** for families with children adopted from Russia and neighboring countries. These will be joined by festivities, programs, and gala for our new special exhibition, *Prêt-à-Papier: the Exquisite Art of Isabelle de Borchgrave*, which opens June 16.

MUSEUM SHOP NEWS

Lauren Salazar, Head of Merchandising

Spring at the Museum Shop is always a time to introduce fresh merchandise and this year is no exception. A small sampling of new items includes:

Binu Soaps – made in America, these soaps are hand made in small batches, in lovely soft colors with designs inspired by cameos.

Handbags – color blocking is in this year and these handbags illustrate that perfectly. A white bag with a raspberry colored handle will freshen up your spring closet.

Tiny Egg boxes – A small Belgian truffle is a gem waiting to be found in these little Faberge-inspired tin egg boxes.

Spring Jackets – Stop by to see the latest batch of Winding River Jackets in brights and pastels.

And, beautiful paper jewelry designed by Isabelle de Borchgrave is now available in the Museum Shop! Scarves, gift bags, plates and napkins will be arriving in the weeks to come.



Paper Jewelry designed by Isabelle de Borchgrave

Upcoming Museum Shop events:

Kimono Trunk Show

April 19 – 21

Wear a work of art! Kimonos often express the Japanese love of nature and they can be silkscreened or hand painted with flowers, birds and trees. Beautiful kimonos, in vibrant colors for spring, will be available in cotton or silk. They can be worn as robes, beach wear or loungewear and make wonderful gifts.

Spring Boutique

April 28 – May 5

Our Spring Boutique will include jackets, hats, accessories and housewares, many with a French twist. Included is French company Sabre's resin serving ware in bright spring designs of polka dots, plaid and gingham check. Also from France blouses and jackets from Les Indiennes de Nimes in lovely Provencal patterns. These and many other unique gifts will be on hand.

RETHINKING VISITOR SERVICES

Angie Dodson, Chief Operating Officer

Hillwood is thrilled to welcome Annie Hinkley as the new head of visitor services. Annie brings a deep understanding and long history of customer services to the position including valuable time immersed in the Hillwood experience as a Mansion docent and Visitor Services Volunteer. Annie's professional background comprises extensive work supervising various customer service teams at AT&T as well as advanced degrees in counseling and personnel services. The change of leadership in visitor services provides an opportunity to think fresh thoughts about the department's structure, functions, policies/procedures, etc... And we're doing just that. There's a lot about this department that will stay just as it is, namely, their deeply held commitment to providing best possible visitor experience and the ways the team coordinates their work to make this so. To this end, the core VS team—Annie Hinkley, Arthur Kim, Katy Albertson, Brianna Wright, Suzanne Hollingsworth, and Elizabeth Dowdle —will remain at the heart of this work.

Two positions, though, will transfer to other departments: Lisa Leyh will continue managing the Interpretation volunteer program, but move to Interpretation where she'll work more closely with Audra Kelly, Rebecca Singer and Erin Lourie. Though Lisa will report to Audra, all of Lisa's responsibilities will remain the same and she'll continue to maintain a close relationship with the Visitor Services team.

And, Steve Stuart will take his groups and events portfolio to Marketing where he'll be working alongside Lynn Rossotti and Molly Mathews. The rationale for these changes is twofold: a realignment to better position these functions in the overall institutional structure and to better leverage the skills and abilities of these two talented colleagues. While we're still in the midst of this change, we have every confidence that these adjustments will strengthen our collective

practice and thank everyone for their support as we ease into this new way of working.

THE YEAR AHEAD AT HILLWOOD

Betty Cochran, Newsletter Volunteer

At the annual business meetings for volunteers on January 23, Executive Director Kate Markert outlined areas that Hillwood will focus on in 2012. Here is a summary of her presentation.

One of the things Hillwood did last year was to go through a strategic planning process, with input from you, the community, the board, and the staff. The year 2012 will be guided by the directions and goals that were set in the strategic plan.

You've all heard the goals, but I'll tell you what we're going to do in 2012 to begin to achieve them.

Goal 1: Expand attendance by growing Hillwood's core audience and reaching out to new audiences. We'll be working in three ways to build audiences. The first is with exhibitions. We started this new direction last year with the *Wedding Belles* exhibit, which I think is what drove our 22 percent increase in attendance in 2011. We will continue it with two great exhibitions this year. *The Style That Ruled the Empires: Napoleon, Russia, and 1812* opens on Valentine's Day and runs through June 2. Beginning on June 16 and through the end of the year, we will feature Isabelle de Borchgrave, who creates historically inspired paper gowns and accessories.

The second way we'll build audiences is through targeted programs, which I'll talk more about today. And, third, if we don't have continued communications and advertising, it's very hard to get the word out. We will continue to invest in what we hope will be a successful advertising campaign, especially with the Isabelle de

Borchgrave exhibition, and of course we will have brand-awareness advertising throughout the year.

Goal 2: Use the Marjorie Merriweather Post life story to connect with contemporary audiences—especially in design, diplomacy, healthy living, and social responsibility. We will focus on those four areas of her life, and her life story will be emphasized through tours, the website, product development, and so forth.

Goal 3: Strengthen strategic partnerships to make Hillwood more global, more visible, and more relevant. We will assess all of the programs we have been working with to make sure that they are aligned with those objectives. We will also reach out to new partners who can help Hillwood become more global, visible, and relevant. An example might be to create fellowships or internships with universities for Russian studies.

Goal 4: Plan right-sized solutions for sustainable, long-term growth—board, staff, operations, facilities, finances, fundraising, programs, and exhibitions. This is quite a big goal, and the takeaway idea here is "sustainable, long-term growth." More specifically, here is some of what these right-sized solutions will involve:

- A larger board, increasing gradually from the current 20 members to no more than 30. The board is making some changes in the bylaws to be in compliance with a new District of Columbia law dealing with governance of not-for-profit organizations, and this gave us the opportunity to consider board size as well.
- A staff who are aligned with the strategic plan and who understand what is expected of them. For example, because we are now putting a great emphasis on exhibitions, we needed some reorganization in curatorial areas. To give us more exhibit capability in-house, we just hired a wonderful new director of exhibitions, Ren Waung, who is an exhibit

designer as well as a very accomplished manager. Besides aligning the staff structure and skill sets with directions in the strategic plan, we want to make sure that staff members throughout understand what is expected of them. Thus we have a new performance evaluation system aimed partly at fulfilling objectives of the plan.

- Programs aligned with targeted audiences, expected returns, and available resources. That is, we'll consider exactly whom we're targeting and really align the programs we offer with the audiences we're looking for. We'll also think about the return on investment in the programs we're offering—we might have some programs that have run their course or need to be refreshed.
- Efficient and effective finance policies and procedures, with a focus on timely flow of financial information to board and staff. We want to be sure that staff manage their budgets and understand where they are against budget, and that they get timely information. We have a new director of finance, Doug Rose, who comes from the Walters, is a CPA, and understands what it is to work in a museum.
- Maximizing efficiency of IT operations and software throughout the campus. We want to make sure that we understand our software and that we're using it to its fullest capabilities.
- A new look at the campus to find incremental improvements for additional program and event space. We're not looking at building a gigantic new building or moving a road, but we'll work with an architect to identify some useful smaller changes we can make over time. We hope to have suggestions by the end of this year about what we can do in 2013 and 2014, in a realistic and cost-effective manner.
- Increased fundraising to support operations (through unrestricted gifts) and to support

special projects like exhibitions and programs, and increased membership. In the current fiscal environment, the need to increase fundraising has become a reality. The board has emphasized that a larger part of our operating budget must come from contributed and earned income.

- Maintaining buildings to industry standards, especially in the collections areas.
- Maintaining gardens, grounds, and greenhouses to the high standards inspired by Marjorie Merriweather Post.
- Continuing to hone security operations to effectively protect collections, visitors, and business operations. Jim Sellevaag, who joined Hillwood as head of security last year, is working with Angie Dodson to continuously improve training and equipment; we just bought new radios, for instance.

Goal 5: Leverage technology to enhance the visitor experience and engage global audiences. We will launch a new website with the opening of the Isabelle de Borchgrave exhibition this June. We have engaged the design firm that just completed the new website for the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Future enhancements to the website will include expanded access to the permanent-collection database. We've been experimenting with different uses of technology throughout the campus to see what works well, starting with something as small as the plant cam. And not for 2012 but in the future, we want to investigate e-publications.

It is absolutely critical that everyone—board, volunteers, and staff—is aligned around the strategic goals. Communication is the key to this alignment, and two-way communication is absolutely vital. I'll be constantly talking about the goals this year, and I want to hear from you about what's working, what's not working, what could be improved.

And you can really help Hillwood to achieve the goals. One important way is by giving visitors reasons to return—for the next special exhibition, the next change of season, the next program. Always be forward-selling, whether it's for an upcoming exhibit or the garden colors of the following season! And always promote the benefits of becoming a member.

PLANT PROFILE: MOUNTAIN LAUREL

Ann Stevens Kelly, Garden Volunteer



Mountain Laurel

The graceful Mountain laurel is often overlooked when considering shrubs for the landscape of residential gardens in this area. But this native hardy evergreen shrub is a good choice for home gardens because of its lovely foliage, beautiful flowers and curving branches.

At Hillwood, mature Mountain laurels, *Kalmia latifolia*, are found near the pet cemetery, on the walkway from the Dacha to the west, on top of the main drive before you get to the mansion and on the right side of the ramp that leads from the visitor's parking lot to the rear parking lot. Most of the Mountain laurels growing at Hillwood are straight species, but there are a few hybrids near the rose garden.

It is a flowering species plant in the heath family, Ericaceae, which includes many of the flowering and fruit shrubs common in the eastern part of the United States, such as azaleas, rhododendron, blueberries and cranberries. This laurel is

commonly found in the mountains where it grows on rocky slopes and in forest areas in large thickets, blooming in May and June. Mountain laurel flowers best in sunnier locations, and it prefers well-drained, moist acid soil and sun to part shade.

Since it is evergreen, this laurel is beautiful all year long, and its glossy dark green leaves resemble those of the rhododendron but are smaller in size. Its lovely white and pink flowers grow in clusters opening from tight ribbed buds into round flowers with slightly pointed edges. They range in color from light pink to white. Several cultivars have darker shades of pink, nearing red in hue. Through the plant breeding work of Dr. Richard Jaynes, the most noted authority on *Kalmia latifolia*, there are numerous named varieties of Mountain laurel.

This shrub was named after Pehr Kalm, the man who sent samples of it to the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus who devised the Latin system for naming plants in the 18th century. It became popular in Europe then, grown for its lovely flowers. It was first recorded growing in America in 1624.

Spoonwood is also a name of this native shrub because its hard wood was used to make spoons, and also railings and other small furniture items. Mountain laurel is known too as Ivybush, Sheep laurel, Lambkill and Clamoun, and it can be found all along the eastern coast and west to Indiana. Mountain laurel usually ranges in height from three to ten feet, but in the mountains of the Carolinas and further south, it can become a tree reaching heights of 15 feet or more.

In the 1930s, the Mountain laurel flower was chosen as the official state flower of Pennsylvania by Governor Gifford Pinchot. Today there is a resort named after Mountain laurel in the Pocono Mountains and a golf course bears its name in White Haven. In Pennsylvania, mountain laurels start blooming in late May, with the colorful white and pink blossoms putting on a beautiful display

in the mountains on into June. It is also the state flower of Connecticut and the namesake of Laurel, Mississippi, founded in 1882.

It is important to note that Mountain Laurel is poisonous, with all parts of the plant considered toxic. That has helped it thrive well in the mountainous areas of the east and in gardens because it is poisonous to deer (goats, cattle, sheep and humans also), and it is not popular with the gypsy moth caterpillars. Purportedly it is not toxic to dogs and cats.

The mere fact that deer won't eat mountain laurel combined with its other attractive features makes it a definite shrub to consider including in any local garden. Since spring is so much earlier this year, the Mountain laurel at Hillwood may well be blooming in late April.

TOUR UPDATE

Lisa Leyh, Interpretation Volunteer Manager

Garden Tours

Hillwood is delighted to welcome back our knowledgeable garden docents for the spring garden touring season on Tuesday, April 3. Garden tours will be offered Tuesday through Saturday at 10:30 am and 12:30 pm, and at 2:30 pm on Sunday, April 15, April 29, May 13 and May 27. Spring garden tours conclude on Saturday, June 9.

Building from the success of last year's off-season tours, we will continue with a 10:30 am summer garden tour from Tuesday, June 12 through Saturday, September 1. The summer garden tours will take advantage of the increased attendance we're anticipating for *Prêt-à-Papier: the Exquisite Art of Isabelle de Borchgrave* which opens to the public on Saturday, June 16. Interested visitors can sign-up for a summer garden tour the day-of at the Visitor Center Tour Desk. Thank you Garden Docents for making this new offering available to our guests!

Mansion Tours

In an effort to better serve our growing attendance and maintain a balance between guided versus self-guided options; two additional tour offerings will be available during April and May. Based on docent availability, a 3:30 pm Mansion tour will be offered on Saturdays and Sundays as well as a 30-minute Spotlight Tour at 11 am and 1 pm on heavy-volume days as needed during the spring. Similar to the regular Mansion highlight tours, tickets for both Spotlight and 3:30 pm tours will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis at the Visitor Center Tour Desk.

NEW SIGN-IN COMPUTER

The Visitor Center kitchen now has a touch screen sign-in computer for volunteers. In addition to the Mansion volunteer lounge and Horticulture break room, the Visitor Center touch screen computer provides volunteers with a third location on the estate to sign-in/out. Another welcome addition to the Visitor Center kitchen are wall file holders, located next to the bulletin board, to organize volunteer handouts such as the Mansion rotations documents and the volunteer newsletter.

KUDOS & CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Lisa Leyh, Interpretation Volunteer Manager

This year's Fabergé Egg Family Festival on Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1 was a wonderful success and set a record for highest festival attendance in Hillwood history! Over 2,050 guests enjoyed Hillwood and the weekend's activities. Volunteer presence was seen throughout the estate from greeting guests in the Visitor Center, answering questions in the Mansion, and assisting with the art activity in the Adirondack Building.

A heartfelt thank you to all who helped with the festival:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Reshma Ballie McGowan | Oksana Klebs |
| Janice Brambilla | Irene Malbin |
| Sally Burns | Chris Ritthaler |
| Mollie Ann Church | Kay Smith |
| Kris Clark | Martha Solodky |
| Cheryl Fields | Ilse Stauffer |
| Ken Garrison | Erica Stern |
| Shirley Hart | Lois Stratton |
| Carolee Heileman | Kevin Tomaine |
| Wilhelmina Irshad | Lois Topping |
| Natasha Jadan | Maggi Walker |
| Jo Anne Jelling | Kiska Williams |

Mark your calendars for some summer fun! Volunteer help is needed for the **Seersucker Social on Saturday, June 9** and the **French Festival on Saturday, July 14 (times to be determined)**. Assistance is needed in the Visitor Center, Mansion, and with the special programming and activities. If you are available, please contact Lisa Leyh at 202.243.3938 or LLeyh@HillwoodMuseum.org.

IN MEMORIAM:

Marion Webster

Betty Cochran, Newsletter Volunteer

Marion Havas Webster, an active and steadfast orchid collection volunteer from 2001 to 2008, died at her home on February 23. Marion, who was born in Hungary, was a budget analyst at the National Institutes of Health before her retirement. She volunteered at Sibley Hospital as well as at Hillwood. Marion is survived by her husband, Henry de Forest Webster, as well as five children and six grandchildren.

Ellen Chu

Candy Kessel, Garden Volunteer

Ellen Moy Chu, an enthusiastic, youthfully energetic, and peripatetic volunteer, died in February after a brief illness. During her 11 years at Hillwood, she worked in many areas of the garden and greenhouse, ending in the orchid collection. She was born in Chinatown, New York, graduated from Wellesley College and enjoyed a long career as head librarian at the Division of Computer Research and Technology, NIH. We'll miss her warm smile, engaging laugh, quick mind, travel tales, candor and companionship.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

We are delighted to welcome 10 new volunteers to Hillwood. Joining Visitor Services are Alison DiDonato, Kissa Guilsher, Wilhelmina Irshad and Linda Predovsky. Joining Horticulture are Josie Rattien, Joanne Gillespie, Elizabeth Johnston, Jerry Potter, Derik Dupont and Jay Etta Hecker.

The *Post Serial* is published quarterly for Hillwood volunteers by Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. It is edited under the direction of the volunteer management team of Bill Johnson and Lisa Leyh. Copyright 2012 by Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens.

Editor-in-Chief. Brian Barr
 Editors. Jane Berger and Susan Shand

Publication dates:
 January, April, July and October

