



The Post Serial

Volunteer Newsletter of Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens

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Summer 2014

THE BE DAZZLED GALA

Adrienne Starr, Donor Relations and Events Manager

The Be Dazzled gala celebrating the opening of *Cartier: Marjorie Merrinweather Post's Dazzling Gems*, was held on June 3, 2014. The event attracted over 425 guests, who came "dressed to dazzle". The evening began with cocktails on the motor court and a preview of the new exhibition, followed by a three course meal served on the Lunar Lawn. The French inspired menu consisted of a first course of Coquilles Saint Jacques a la Parisienne, an Entree of Onglet de Boeuf, and a dessert of chilled Orange Souffle. Each table was topped with beautiful flower arrangements created by Jason Gedeik, head of greenhouse and design operations, with the tireless help of horticulture staff and volunteers for two full days prior to the event.



Co-chair Sara O'Keefe (far right) with guests



The table centerpiece is a great example of Hillwood volunteers' handiwork



Executive Director Kate Markert addressing the gala attendees



Adrienne Arsht with the French Ambassador's wife

As with all events at Hillwood, the volunteers played a crucial role in maintaining the high standard of excellence Marjorie Post bequeathed to our shared institution. Countless hours assembling gift bags, creating breath-taking floral arrangements, and providing flawless customer services during the evening are just an example of the hard work and dedication 25 volunteers graciously donated for the June gala. As you are aware, the annual gala is more than just a glamorous and memorable night at Hillwood. It is a vital vehicle for renewing relationships with existing patrons and cultivating new relationships to ensure the vitality and success of Hillwood's mission. We cannot thank you enough for your contributions to this important evening!

For more images from the gala, visit Hillwood's [Be Dazzled Gala page](#) on Facebook

HILLWOOD HAPPENINGS

Special Note: In an effort to keep you informed on the latest workshops, lectures, trips and other educational activities, a monthly email will be sent to all active Hillwood volunteers from either Bill Johnson or Lisa Leyh with details on the month's educational offerings.

All Hillwood volunteers are invited to take advantage of the educational offerings listed below. 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 unless otherwise noted.

Plant ID Walk

August 20 (Wednesday), 9 a.m.

On this walk, participants will study the plants with summer interest. Meet in the Horticulture break room.

Plant ID Walk

September 9 (Tuesday), 9 a.m.

This walk will focus on the plants of interest around the Mansion and some of the fall blooming bulbs. Meet in the Horticulture break room.

Garden Docent Training 2015

We are pleased to announce Hillwood will be offering a new Garden Docent training course in 2015. Help us spread the word about this exciting opportunity and share the announcement with

your friends, social clubs, colleagues, etc. For more information on the training course including a detailed position description and application, visit the “[Jobs & Volunteering](#)” page on Hillwood’s website. Completed applications must be received by **Friday, September 12**. Please send your completed docent application to: LLeyh@HillwoodMuseum.org noting “Garden Docent Application” in the subject line.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS UPDATES

Erin Lourie, Adult Audiences Manager

For more information about each of these programs, and to learn about newly added events, be sure to check out Hillwood’s Calendar of Events at hillwoodmuseum.org/whats/calendar

The public programs calendar slows down during the summer. Read on for more details of what to expect in the coming weeks.

Horticulture Programming

Orchid Workshops
Saturday September 20
Saturday, September 27

Outreach to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Communities

Rainbow Families Picnic
Saturday, September 6

[Gay Day](#)

Sunday, September 14

[Divas Outdoors: Classic Films Under the Stars, featuring *Some Like It Hot*](#)

Thursday, September 18 (rain date: September 25)

Lectures

[Interiors Period!: The Fabulous World of Miniature Rooms, Period Rooms and House Museums, by William T. Georgis](#)

Tuesday, September 30

Cartier Lecture Series

[Cartier: Marjorie Merriweather Post’s Dazzling Gems](#),

by Liana Paredes

Tuesday, October 7

[Cartier and Women of the National Gem Collection](#), by

Dr. Jeffrey Post

Tuesday, October 14

[The Rue de la Paix in Paris: The Center of Belle Epoque Luxury](#), by Dr. Wilfried Zeisler

Tuesday, October 21

[Cartier: The Age of Glamour, 1930-1960](#), by Janet Zapata

Tuesday, October 28

CW POST COURTYARD PROJECT

Don Rogers, Director of Facilities

Construction on the CW Post Courtyard project has begun. The Café is open though some pathways near the Café are closed during various phases of construction. Additional signage will be in place to help visitors navigate their way to the Café, in addition to maps available in the Visitor Center.



View of the Café from the Cutting Garden wall

This project provides a wonderful opportunity to upgrade and align the courtyard more closely with Marjorie Post’s standards for hospitality. The new space will feature central paving in bluestone

edged in brick, a frame tent suitable to use most of the year, and French doors installed into the façade of the C.W. Post Center. The courtyard is slated to reopen later this fall.

FALL GARDEN TOURS

The fall garden touring season begins after Labor Day on Tuesday, September 2 with garden tours offered Tuesday through Saturday at 10:30 am and 12:30 pm and at 2:30 pm on Sundays, September 14 and 28, October 12 and 26, and November 9.

Interested visitors can sign-up for a garden tour on a first-come, first-served basis at the Visitor Center Tour Desk. Saturday, November 15 marks the end of the fall garden touring season. We'll be in touch with the Garden Docents in August with information to prepare you for the coming fall season.

MUSEUM SHOP

Lauren Salazar, Head of Merchandising

June started out with a bang, with customers responding well to the Cartier exhibit t-shirts and gifts, including paper punch-out jewelry, trivets, coasters, notecards and iPhone covers.



iPhone covers

Tying into the exhibit, Art Deco fashion and accessories are arriving soon, including a kimono, coin purse, makeup pouch and clutch, all in bold black & white.



Zenzii jewelry

Summer merchandise is arriving daily and some of my favorites include:

- Bright and fashionable Zenzii jewelry
- French grilling spice blends
- Summer kimonos



French grilling spice blends

HORTICULTURE DIVISION STRESSES TEAMWORK ALONG WITH INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS

Betty Cochran, Newsletter Volunteer

Hillwood's gardens are a major draw for many of the 70,000 or so visitors who enter the gates each year, and the Division of Horticulture maintains a broad structure for keeping the gardens in top condition. The division, under Brian Barr, director of horticulture, recently completed some

administrative restructuring. The resulting framework illustrates how the division handles its workload.

Horticulture operations are organized under four staff members who report to Brian: Bill Johnson, Jason Gedeik, Drew Asbury, and Jessica Bonilla.

Horticulturist Bill Johnson, who has 31 years of experience at Hillwood, continues as volunteer coordinator, supervising the department's large contingent of more than 110 volunteers. Bill also is responsible for the [“What’s in Bloom”](#) segment of Hillwood’s website (look for it in the About Hillwood section). As the department’s horticulturist, he is also a resource for all of the gardening staff.

Jason is head of design operations, which means both interior and seasonal display design. It includes the floral arrangements always on display in the Mansion and other buildings—all of them changed weekly—as well as those created for the holidays and special events. He also designs the outdoor beds and displays that change with the seasons, and he oversees the orchid collection, tropical plants and the orchid greenhouses.



Jason Gedeik

Drew, as head grower, is in charge of the Cutting Garden and of propagating and growing plants in the estate greenhouse. That greenhouse is where many of the plants destined for the Cutting Garden and the outdoor seasonal displays originate. Drew is charged as well with finding

and buying plants that can’t be grown at Hillwood. He also handles IPM, or integrated pest management, activities in the estate greenhouse.

Head gardener Jessica Bonilla oversees the gardening staff. Hillwood’s many garden areas are divided into four sections, each of which is the responsibility of a specific gardener. Jessica manages the areas around the Mansion, including the French Parterre and the Rose Garden. As head gardener, she is also in charge of the irrigation schedule, equipment repair, and outdoor IPM issues. She is involved in hiring and scheduling Hillwood’s seasonal gardeners, who are employed in the spring and summer, when the workload is the heaviest.



The horticulture staff from the left are Drew Asbury, Andy Ebret, Frances Vandenbroucke, Marshall Paquin, Brian Barr, Jessica Bonilla and Bill Johnson

Senior gardener, Marshall Paquin, is responsible for the area from Friendship Walk to Linnean Avenue, including the Putting Green and part of the Visitor Center. As a certified arborist, much of his concern is with the health of the trees at Hillwood. Marshall also manages the estate’s turf care.

Frances Vandenbroucke maintains the complexities of the Japanese-Style Garden, and she is responsible for the area around the Dacha and the pet cemetery. She also cares for the

bonsai collection and the seasonal shrubs that are held in the cold frames.

The two newest gardeners are Andy Ehret and Kevin Beamer (see New Staff section for photo of Kevin). They are assigned specifically to work with the other four gardeners, providing additional skilled hands and also learning the requirements of the areas they work in.

A strength of the administrative structure is that even though everyone has individual responsibilities, the staff members work as a team. The operational structures, such as design and grower activities, have no sharp boundaries—for instance, Jason works with Jessica and Drew in designing seasonal plantings, while Drew and Jessica consult on IPM issues in the cutting garden.

Major contributions are made by the 110 or so horticulture volunteers. “They are essential to our work; we really depend on them so much,” says Bill. They work in every area of the gardens and the greenhouses.

Each volunteer is assigned to work in an area he or she is especially interested in, and they are supervised by the staff member in charge of that area. Most work in weekly four-hour shifts. Horticulture volunteers are on duty even on Mondays, when Hillwood is closed; Mondays are when the indoor floral arrangements are created.

Like the staff, the volunteers themselves develop a sense of camaraderie and teamwork, as well as an attachment to Hillwood. Overall, Hillwood has a very high rate of retention of volunteers, and the horticulture division is no exception.

Talking about the division as a whole, Brian says that “the diverse backgrounds of our staff members make horticulture a vibrant department and the revised structure builds better teamwork for all the activities.” He continues, “As always, the contributions of our horticulture volunteers in

all areas are critical to our operations, and to the face that Hillwood presents to our visitors.”

NEW STAFF

Please join us in welcoming the newest members to Hillwood’s staff:



Adrienne Starr

Adrienne Starr joined Hillwood as the donor relations and special events manager last January. A DC area native, she has lived in New York, Madrid, Miami, and England. She has worked for several art galleries and has done events for institutions such as the Museum of Contemporary Art in Miami and the New York City Ballet.



Kevin Beamer

Kevin Beamer is the latest full time employee for the Horticulture Division. Even though this is a second career for him, Kevin comes to us with a wide range of horticulture experience in both commercial and residential landscaping. He also has an Associate's degree in Landscape Design

from Northern Virginia Community College where he still teaches as an adjunct professor for the Horticulture department.



Ed Vreeland

Ed Vreeland joined Hillwood as a contractor in 2005 and has been working as a Technical Engineer here for the past 8 years. In June he was officially made a part of the Hillwood family when he was hired as the head of information technology.



Anup Sebastian

Anup Sebastian joined Hillwood's IT department in May as the network and application manager. Anup earned his bachelor degree from University of Maryland in Computer Network and Security. Before coming to Hillwood, Anup served the Coast Guard for six years as a Network Administrator. His last station was in Cape Cod, Massachusetts; his previous coast guard jobs included tours of San Francisco and New Orleans.



Jaime McCurry

Jaime McCurry, digital assets librarian, will be responsible for developing, implementing, and sustaining an institution-wide digital stewardship strategy. She will also be responsible for evaluating, fine-tuning, and identifying additional digital asset outreach projects and developing an engaged and collaborative community for building digital collections.

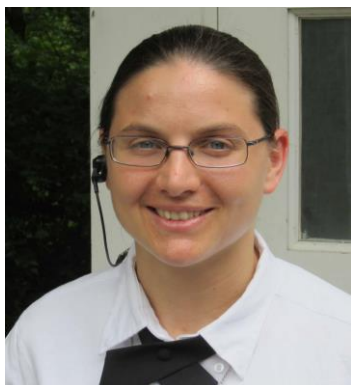
Prior to her appointment at Hillwood, Jaime served as a 2013-14 National Digital Stewardship Residency Fellow where she was embedded at the Folger Shakespeare Library as part of the Library of Congress stewarded and IMLS grant-funded National Digital Stewardship Residency program. Her primary duties included the management of the Folger's web archive collections and evaluating institutional digital media stewardship and preservation needs. She holds a B.A. in English Literature and a Masters in Library and Information Science, both from Long Island University.



Katie Kapczynski

Visitor Services is delighted to welcome Katie Kapczynski as a new VS Coordinator. Katie joins us from the Newseum, where she worked as a

visitor services lead for three years. She brings with her a Masters in art museum and gallery studies from England, her artistic eye, and dedicated experience in museum operations. We look forward to Katie's many contributions - she will begin working at Hillwood Tuesdays-Saturdays, please stop by the Visitor Center and say hi.



Melanie Locke

The security department is pleased to introduce Melanie Locke as our new full time security officer. Melanie was discovered at the recent Hiring our Heroes job fair that several Hillwood staff recently attended. Melanie has a wide range of experience, and is also a rock climbing instructor and rock climbing team coach. Please welcome her as you see her throughout the campus.

MANSION DISPLAY UPDATES

Lisa Leyh, Interpretation Volunteer Manager

I hope many of you have had the opportunity to see the new, exciting display changes in the Icon Room which were unveiled to the public on July 1. In addition to the Icon Room, a few other spaces in the Mansion also featured a few display changes/updates during the month of July and August. Please read the information below for more details.

Staff Dining Room

The Staff Dining Room, off of the Kitchen/Pantry in the Mansion, is now open. The space features new text, archival photographs and objects, as well as quotes from staff, family and friends to give a sense of life and work at Hillwood, Camp Topridge, and Mar-A-Lago, as well as how Marjorie Post and her staff managed these three seasonal estates over the course of each year.

Attention Mansion Docents: The newly redesigned Staff Dining Room is created for a self-guided experience and is **not** included on the Mansion tours. Similar to the other rooms not on the Mansion tour, such as the Second Floor Library and Adam Bedroom, Mansion Docents should encourage visitors to explore the Staff Dining Room on their own after the tour has concluded.



Curator Estella Chung taking advantage of the mid-century furniture available for guests to use during their visit in the Staff Dining Room

For your reference, the **label text** for the Staff Dining Room is available on the “Mansion Rotation & Exhibition Information” page on the [volunteer website](#) under the “Education” tab.



Hillwood Board President on-station in the newly redesigned Staff Dining Room during the Member Preview Days in early August

Icon Room

In an effort to improve the visitor experience, multiple objects, including the two Fabergé Imperial Easter eggs, have shifted their locations in the Icon Room this month. For your reference, **an object inventory list** for the display cases and tables vitrines in the Icon Room is available on the “Mansion Rotation & Exhibition Information” page on the [volunteer website](#) under the “Education” tab. This inventory list provides identification details for most of the objects on view. Please note images are not currently available for every object. An inventory list for a number of cases and shelves is forthcoming.

A **new video** providing an overview of the display changes in the Icon Room with curators Scott Ruby and Wilfried Zeisler is available online. This 10 minute video, created specifically for volunteers, highlights the rationale behind why the objects are grouped together. This is a new format we’re experimenting with to help communicate changes in the collection. To access the video, please use this [link](#) and enter **"volunteer"** for the password. I highly recommend Mansion Docents watch the video.

Pavilion



Ashtray from the Discussion of the Stalin Constitution in Uzbekistan desk set

Hillwood has acquired two new objects for the Russian collection: a pencil holder, ashtray, and tray from the Discussion of the Stalin Constitution in Uzbekistan desk set and a suite of jewelry by Ivan D. Tshitshelev. These new acquisitions are currently on display in the Pavilion. For the **object label text**, visit the “Mansion Rotation & Exhibition Information” page on the [volunteer website](#) under the “Education” tab.



Suite of jewelry by Ivan D. Tshitshelev purchased through the Anne Curtis Odom Acquisition Foundation

Mansion Coat Room

La Nuit, the painting on display in the Mansion Coat Room, is temporarily off view for conservation treatment for several weeks (up to two months). The treatment is in preparation for its inclusion in a [Bouguereau exhibition](#) at the Flagler Museum in Palm Beach, Florida in early 2015.

KUDOS FOR VOLUNTEERS

French Festival

Hillwood welcomed over 1,200 visitors for French Festival on Saturday, July 12 (one of our highest attendance for this festival)! Guests enjoyed activities ranging from music and dance performances to a hands-on art project. The support from our volunteers is one of the key components for a successful program. Thank you for making another memorable experience for our visitors!

Janice Brambilla	Marina Naydenova
Kris Clark	Megan Ober
Rosemary Coskey	Delia Riso
Kevin Davis	Chris Ritthaler
Suzanne Demarest	Christabelle Salmon
Gale Dugan	Harold Schafke
Iris Elfenbein	Kristen Sieck
Ferial Fallah	Kevin Tomaine
Wilhelmina Irshad	Lois Topping
Susan Lund	Maggi Walker
Ann McClellan	Kelly Yardley
Mollie Moscony	

STAFF UPDATE

Lisa Leyh, Interpretation Volunteer Manager

With our volunteer force fast approaching 270 people, we have decided to shift overall responsibility for this key resource from the Interpretation Department to the Human Resources Department. Although this will mean a change in reporting relationship for me, it should be seamless in terms of day to day volunteer

activities and will have no direct impact on the volunteers. I will continue to be the point-of-contact for Interpretation volunteers. Audra Kelly, Head of Interpretation will remain involved with volunteer program content and training, whereas Michael Dudich, Head of Human Resources will be a resource on program administration.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

We are delighted to welcome six new volunteers to Hillwood! Joining Interpretation are Lara Dajani, Anna Frueh, and Per Soerensson. Joining Horticulture are Kate Emanuel, Becky White and Thomas (T.J.) Hitaffer.

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, Lisa Leyh, and other Hillwood staff members. Copyright 2014 by Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens.

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