

# THE POST SERIAL

## The Dina Merrill Pavilion and Collections & Research Center Project

Jan Jensen, Head of Development

Hillwood has embarked on a new \$9 million project that, over the next several years, will allow the museum to more fully and efficiently utilize space on campus. The project makes use of space beneath Hillwood's existing parking structure to solve programmatic needs. These needs include relocating the library and archives to provide appropriate space for future acquisitions and relieve current overcrowding, creating more collections storage space, and providing

additional space for facilities staff. This in turn allows the museum to renovate the Camellia House to become The Dina Merrill Pavilion, a new venue for public programming and interpretation. The building will be named in memory of Marjorie Post's youngest daughter, who passed away in 2017.



*Rendering of the Collections & Research Center entrance from the parking deck*



*The Collections & Research Center from below the parking deck*

parking deck, will provide 7,500 square feet of usable space. The Research Center reading room will accommodate staff, visiting scholars, and volunteers. There will be space for books, folios, maps, and other printed material with an adjacent vault to accommodate larger objects, such as rolled textiles and furniture. The space at the east end of the new facility will house the facilities workshop. Currently located in the Camellia House, the brick building next to the cold frames and café, it includes work space for carpenters, a small machine shop, staff space, and place for charging electric carts. Once the facilities workshop is moved, the Camellia House will be renovated to provide 800 square feet of space for conferences, special events, and public programming. Construction of the Collections & Research Center is scheduled to begin in October 2019 with completion projected for late 2020. Renovation of The Dina Merrill Pavilion is scheduled to begin in

Stemming from a multi-year campus master plan, a 2017 Collections Assessment for Preservation program evaluation, and a 2018 space utilization study, The Dina Merrill Pavilion and Collections & Research Center project was designed to meet Hillwood's strategic goal of planning for sustainable long-term growth for programs, operations, facilities, and more.

The Collections & Research Center, situated behind the visitor center beneath the existing

early 2020 with completion later in that year.

The families of Dina Merrill and her sister Adelaide Close Riggs have contributed \$7.5 million towards the project, leaving \$1.5 million to raise to complete it. Anyone interested in supporting this project is encouraged to contact Jan Jensen, head of development, at [JJensen@HillwoodMuseum.org](mailto:JJensen@HillwoodMuseum.org) or 202.243.3948 for more information.

## Hillwood Happenings for Volunteers

All Hillwood volunteers are invited to take advantage of the educational offerings listed below. While advanced registration is not necessary for all continuing education events, **please register in advance when stated**, as space is limited for some opportunities. Advanced registration can be completed on the clipboard at the horticulture sign-in computer across from Drew Asbury's office or by contacting Drew Asbury at 202.243.3907 or [DAsbury@HillwoodMuseum.org](mailto:DAsbury@HillwoodMuseum.org). The horticulture break room is located on the lower level of the greenhouses.

### **Floral Workshop | Friday, July 26, 11:30 a.m.**

Join Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer, and create a floral arrangement filled with fabulous summer color. Everything is included in the \$35 materials fee. Please sign up on the clipboard in the horticulture office area. Space is limited to twelve volunteers. Meet in the horticulture break room.

### **Changes in the Japanese-style Garden | Tuesday, August 6-Friday, August 9, 11:30 a.m.**

Join Frances Vandenbroucke, gardener, for a tour of the Japanese-style garden to see some of the recent changes. Please sign up on the clipboard in the horticulture office area. Space is limited to fifteen volunteers per tour. Meet in the horticulture break room.

### **The Art of the Chrysanthemum | Sunday, August 11 and Tuesday, August 13-Thursday, August 15, 11:30 a.m.**

Join Enrique Mendez, greenhouse grower, for a tour of the fun and fanciful world of cascade and gnome chrysanthemums. The tour will provide an overview of the process involved in creating mum topiaries and bonsai. Please sign up on the clipboard in the horticulture office area. Space is limited to fifteen volunteers per tour. Meet in the horticulture break room.

### **The Summer Display and More Tour | Tuesday, August 27-Friday, August 30 and Sunday, September 1, 11:30 a.m.**

Join Jessica Bonilla, senior gardener, and Heriberto Galvan Diaz, gardener, for a stroll through the gardens as they point out some of the highlights of the season and the summer annual displays. Please sign up on the clipboard in the horticulture office area. Space is limited to fifteen volunteers per tour. Meet in the horticulture break room.

### **Plant ID Walk: Fall Blooms | Tuesday, September 10-Friday, September 13, 11:30 a.m.**

Join Drew Asbury, horticulturist and volunteer manager, on a tour and discussion of the gardens with a focus on flowering plants for the late season garden. Please sign up on the clipboard in the horticulture office area as space is limited to fifteen volunteers per tour. Meet in the horticulture break room.

## Save the Date: Upcoming Volunteer Education Sessions

Mark your calendars for two exciting volunteer education sessions this fall.

On Monday, September 9, Dr. Wilfried Zeisler, chief curator, and Estella Chung, director of collections, will present on the upcoming installation, *War & Pieces*. See pages 5 and 6 for more information on this elaborate display, coming to Hillwood in September, and stay tuned for more details about the volunteer education session. On Monday, December 9, Estella Chung will present on *Marjorie Merriweather Post: The Life Behind the Luxury*, the new biography of Hillwood's founder. The book will be available for purchase in the museum shop in late October. Sessions will be held throughout the day at 10:30 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. in the visitor center theater. The presentations for *War & Pieces* and *Marjorie Merriweather Post: The Life Behind the Luxury* will be recorded and made available on the volunteer website.

### Museum Shop Updates

Lauren Salazar, Head of Merchandising

Gift shows earlier in the year have yielded exciting results with many new vendors and products arriving for the summer and fall.

First on the scene is a collection of jewelry from Brooklyn-based jewelry maker Sandy Hyun. Sandy is inspired by vintage art deco jewelry and uses rare vintage chains and crystals, semi-precious stones, and early twentieth-century German glass to create her stunning pieces.



It is no secret that Marjorie Post loved fashion and often had shoes dyed to match her outfits. No doubt she would have appreciated this tote and scarf from the New York Historical Society, showing designs from Stuart Wietzman's private collection of shoes. Ideal for putting your best foot forward!

We are also excited to offer the innovative work of Hilary Hertzler, a Philadelphia-based jeweler, designer and artist. Her work is a juxtaposition of man-made and natural materials, incorporating metal, fiber, bead work, and mixed media.



#### Upcoming Shop Events:

##### Garage Sale

**Monday, September 9, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. | Library Parking Lot**

Help Hillwood's museum shop clean out its excess merchandise and display supplies, including furniture, baskets, and display items. Only cash and checks will be accepted.

## Guests Celebrate New Exhibition at *The Black & White Gala*

Allison Kingery, Special Events Manager



*Megan Martinelli, exhibition curator,  
on the red carpet  
Photographed by Tony Powell*

Four hundred guests in black and white gathered on Tuesday, June 4 for Hillwood's annual gala. They walked the red carpet to the sounds of a lively jazz trio while enjoying cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the C.W. Post courtyard tent. Guests toured [\*Mid-Century Master: The Photography of Alfred Eisenstaedt\*](#) before enjoying a formal dinner at black and white tables on the Lunar Lawn.

One of the highlights of the evening was the "step and repeat" wall, where guests struck a pose and had their photos taken. The wall was inspired by a page from Eisenstaedt's autograph book, with famous signatures in silver chrome and surrounded by a white floral frame designed by Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer, and assembled by a crew of fabulous volunteers.



*Cocktail hour centerpieces  
Photographed by Tony Powell*



*The tent on the Lunar Lawn  
Photographed by Tony Powell*

Hillwood volunteers were again crucial to the gala's success both before and during the event. Volunteers who assisted with the floral displays include: Joan Asboth, Betsy Burke, Ann Stevens Kelly, Luna Levinson, Diane Pirkey, Emma Refuerzo, and Carolyn Starek. Volunteers who assisted at the gala include: Vanessa Cieslak, Kevin Davis, Didi DiVirgilio, Wilhelmina Irshad, Susann Kollmar, JoAnn Padell, Priscilla Sabatelli, Vee Smith, Gail Trousoff Marks, and Joan Weiss. A special thank you to all the volunteers involved in making this evening a success!



*Ellen Charles, president emerita, and Kate Markert,  
executive director  
Photographed by Tony Powell*

## Exhibition Docents Engage Visitors in *Mid-Century Master: The Photography of Alfred Eisenstaedt*

Audra Kelly, Director of Interpretation, and Lisa Horvath, Volunteer Services Supervisor

A group of mansion docents recently completed training to become exhibition docents for [Mid-Century Master: The Photography of Alfred Eisenstaedt](#). Building upon the success of last year's *Fabergé Rediscovered* exhibition docent program, specially trained docents will engage visitors in a variety of ways throughout the exhibition's run. Some may lead private tours for exhibition or gala sponsors, while others served on-station during the opening week's activities, answering questions and providing an overview of the exhibition.

Exhibition docents will also be found leading both public and private forty-five-minute tours in the Adirondack building. Public tours are offered based on docent availability with tickets available first-come-first-serve at the tour desk. Advanced reservations are not available. Groups of ten or more are able to reserve a private docent-led tour of the exhibition just as they can with mansion or garden tours. Private tours can be booked by contacting Meredith DeSantis, group sales, special events and tourism manager, at [MDeSantis@HillwoodMuseum.org](mailto:MDeSantis@HillwoodMuseum.org) or 202.243.3914.



*Exhibition docents analyze and discuss Alfred Eisenstaedt's photos during a training session in May*

Hillwood is pleased to offer visitors these additional ways to deepen their engagement with *Mid-Century Master* and thanks the exhibition docents for their interest and commitment to continuing to develop and diversify their expertise.

## *War and Pieces* Comes to Hillwood This Fall

Dr. Wilfried Zeisler, Chief Curator

On September 24, Hillwood will welcome Dutch-born artist Bouke de Vries' elaborate installation, [War and Pieces](#). First created in 2012, *War and Pieces* is a twenty-first-century descendant of the table centerpieces displayed during the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries, which were also known as *surtouts de table*. The décor of these table ornaments varied. Some were purely decorative and were inspired by garden design or architectural follies. Others, often with

featured heroic acts glorifying the host of the formal dinner for which the centerpieces were set. The allegorical, historical, or political themes of the decoration often generated discussions around the table. Centerpieces were traditionally made from sugar, but featured various materials such as porcelain, glass, and precious metals, especially in the eighteenth century, with the development of porcelain manufactories in Europe.

Set on Hillwood's dining room table, *War and Pieces* is made of sugar figurines, porcelain fragments and shards, and plastic toy pieces. At the center of the work is the two-foot-tall mushroom cloud made of plate fragments, Frozen Charlottes (porcelain dolls made between 1850 and 1920), skulls, and animals. It is topped by a crying angel and is surrounded by figures



*War and Pieces* displayed at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art  
Photo courtesy of Wadsworth Atheneum

of crucified Jesus Christ and several figurines of Guan Yin, the Chinese goddess of mercy and compassion. On each side, battles take place on top of hills made of porcelain fragments. They involve figurines of the Roman god Mars and goddess Minerva, which are sugar-coated plaster casts of iconic eighteenth-century Derby porcelain figurines, and figurines with colorful plastic elements from broken Transformer toys. With tableware being used as weapons, these violent encounters epitomize the struggle between Past, made of the sugar figurines and antique gods, and Present, represented by the plastic warriors. Mixing traditional and contemporary references, *War and Pieces* is a bridge between old traditions and contemporary design.

Born in Utrecht, Netherlands, Bouke de Vries studied at the Design Academy Eindhoven and Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London. He first worked in the fashion industry before studying ceramics conservation and restoration at West Dean College in the United Kingdom. While he was working as a private conservator, de Vries began to view damaged and broken objects as beautiful and interesting pieces to use in his work. In 2009, he began creating his own art. *War and Pieces* is his largest work and is considered a "masterwork" by art critics. It has traveled throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, and Asia. Hillwood is only the third venue in the United States to display *War and Pieces*. At Hillwood, *War and Pieces* will be set with a selection of plates from Marjorie Post's Imperial Russian art collection featuring soldiers from different Russian regiments, French glassware, and flatware.

*War and Pieces* will be on display at Hillwood until April 5, 2020. Resources for volunteers, including label text and display information, will be provided closer to September. A volunteer education session will be held on Monday, September 9. Stay tuned for additional information regarding this exciting installation.

# New Family Garden Treasure Hunt

Rebecca Singer, Youth Audience Manager

Building on the success of the printed mansion treasure hunts for families introduced in February, we are excited to present a new treasure hunt, focusing on the gardens.

The garden treasure hunt is ready in time for Hillwood's two big family events in July: French Festival, which took place on Saturday, July 13, and *Tanabata: The Japanese Star Festival* on Saturday, July 27. Families will be able to use the garden treasure hunt to explore the gardens, including the French parterre and Japanese-style garden, at these festivals.

As with the other treasure hunts, volunteers will distribute these from the visitor center tour desk. Visitors are welcome to utilize any combination of the treasure hunts available to them.

We invite you to try out the new treasure hunt to familiarize yourself with it. Please note that for the first month, we will be using an alternate version of the hunt, while the Four Seasons Overlook is temporarily closed for path renovations, that substitutes the winter statue with a statue on the Friendship Walk. We hope you have fun exploring and engaging visitors with this new tool.

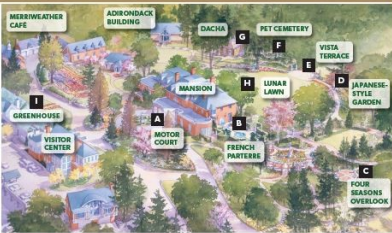
We appreciate helpful input from volunteers and contributions from others in developing this treasure hunt. Please continue to share your feedback with Lisa Horvath at 202.243.3938 or [LHorvath@HillwoodMuseum.org](mailto:LHorvath@HillwoodMuseum.org) as you use this resource with families.


Q GARDEN TREASURE HUNT

**HILLWOOD**  
ESTATE, MUSEUM & GARDENS

## Outdoor Art and Architecture


- 1 GO TO the locations noted on the map.
- 2 USE the close-ups to find the items.
- 3 READ to learn more.






**A MOTOR COURT**  
Eros (pronounced air-rows), the winged god of love, greets visitors in front of the mansion. He is also called Cupid. In this statue, he pulls an arrow from his quiver, the case on his back.

Eros, France, 1800s, sandstone (72.18)  
Q 111



**B FRENCH PARTERRE**  
This paw belongs to an imaginary creature called a sphinx (pronounced sfinks), which is part lion and part human. Hillwood's sphinx has a fancy hairstyle and clothes from long ago.

Sphinx, France, 1860-70, marble (72.14)  
Q 122



**C FOUR SEASONS OVERLOOK**  
This child is wrapped in a blanket to keep warm in winter. Walk to the right in a circle to find statues for the other three seasons: children with flowers for spring, grain for summer, and grape-vines for fall.

Winter (Statue of the Four Seasons), England, about 1920, lead (72.36)  
Q 142

Q GARDEN TREASURE HUNT: Outdoor Art and Architecture



**D JAPANESE-STYLE GARDEN**  
Hotei (pronounced hoe-tay) is the Japanese god of happiness. He has a big smile, huge ears, and a round belly, and he holds a fan in one hand. Find him tucked away near the stairs.

Hotei, United States, 1900s, stone (72.60)  
Q 172



**E YISTA TERRACE**  
This imaginary creature blowing a horn is half goat and half child. Can you find other creatures nearby playing pipes, cymbals, and a tambourine?

Yista, United States, 1900s, lead (72.50.2)  
Q 180



**F PET CEMETERY**  
A dog with a basket of fruit in its mouth sits guarding one of the entrances to this quiet spot. Marjorie Post created this garden because she loved her dogs, including Scampy, who lived with her at Hillwood.

Dog, United States, 1900s, stone (72.34.3)  
Q 190



**G DACHA**  
The colorful designs on this building look like carvings on a Russian country home, called a dacha (pronounced dah-cha). The building is sometimes open for special art displays.

Dacha, United States, about 1900, iron (72.41)  
Q 200



**H LUNAR LAWN (NEAR THE MANSION)**  
Before going indoors, Marjorie Post's guests could scrape their shoes on this metal dog's back to clean the bottom of them.

Boot scraper, United States, about 1900, iron (72.41)  
Q 220



**I GREENHOUSE**  
Gardeners grow plants all year long inside this glass building, called a greenhouse. Go inside the first room to see colorful orchids, Marjorie Post's favorite flower, and other plants.

Q What do the flowers smell like?

Learn more with Hillwood's free audio guide, available in the visitor center or as a mobile app. [hillwoodmuseum.org](http://hillwoodmuseum.org)

The new family garden treasure hunts debut in time for Hillwood's July programs: French Festival and Tanabata

## Recap of Recent Circles Events

Jan Jensen, Head of Development, and Martha Ball, Development Assistant

### Circles Trip to Gilded Age Newport, Rhode Island

We have had a robust Circles travel program this year, inviting our members to travel with Hillwood to destinations both near and far. From May 7-9, Circles members explored Newport, Rhode Island, taking in Gilded Age architecture, the history of the twentieth-century American elite, and classic New England dining. Highlights of the trip included a private, catered dinner in the gold dining room at Marble House, curator-led tours of Rough Point and the Isaac Bell House, and a visit with Angela Brown Fischer, daughter of John Nicholas Brown II, who delighted our group with stories of her life in Newport and her trip on the *Sea Cloud* when she was a young girl .

President's and Director's Circle members are now looking forward to our upcoming cruise on the *Sea Cloud* from November 4-11. The *Sea Cloud* will set sail from Casablanca, Morocco to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain. Travelers will hear stories from Marjorie Merriweather Post's travels shared by Ellen Charles, Marjorie Post's granddaughter, and Estella Chung, director of collections and author of the upcoming biography, *Marjorie Merriweather Post: The Life Behind the Luxury*, which will be available in late October.



Circle members enjoy Newport, Rhode Island



The plaque dedicating the woodland walk to Adelaide Close Riggs

### Honoring Adelaide Close Riggs

On June 25, Hillwood celebrated Adelaide Close Riggs, Marjorie Merriweather Post's eldest daughter, during a reception attended by Post family members, the Board of Trustees, our Advisory Council, and President's and Director's Circle members. Adelaide is now honored in Hillwood's gardens with a new plaque dedicating the woodland walk to her, and is highlighted by a special display in the mansion. As noted on the plaque, Adelaide was the first president of Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, and we are pleased to be honoring her guiding leadership. From Tuesday, June 18 to Sunday, January 12, 2020, visitors will be able to view selections from Adelaide's wardrobe in the Adam bedroom suite, her wedding gown in Marjorie Post's bedroom, and a portrait by Oswald Birley on loan to Hillwood and displayed in the second floor library.



## New Research on the Miniature Bed

Dr. Rebecca Tilles, Associate Curator of Eighteenth-Century French and Western Fine and Decorative Arts

The [miniature bed](#) (31.104) recently underwent closer study and minor conservation work in preparation for its inclusion in Hillwood's exhibition [Mid-Century Master: The Photography of Alfred Eisenstaedt](#), now open in the Adirondack building until January 12, 2020. The bed is typically displayed in the first floor library, not far from a framed photograph of Marjorie Post smiling at Scampi, her pet schnauzer, who is sitting in the bed. After the exhibition closes, the bed will return to the library.

The bed was purchased by Eleanor Close in Paris in 1960 from the dealer Michel Abelin as a personal gift to her mother, Marjorie Post. Marjorie may have used it as a dog bed at her Mar-A-Lago estate before transferring it to Hillwood.

Paperwork indicated that the bed was a genuine antique produced prior to 1830. Modern techniques and a closer examination have revealed that it is actually made in the style of an eighteenth-century Louis XVI *lit à la polonoise*, which is a canopy bed intended to decorate a niche or alcove named after Louis XV's Polish queen, Marie Leszczyńska, and was likely made in Paris sometime between 1880 and 1920. It was most likely made as a model or miniature bed and was not originally intended for dogs.



*The miniature bed usually displayed in the first floor library.*

Hillwood has a sizeable collection of miniature furniture, predominantly nineteenth-century English, including chests of drawers, armchairs, and desks. Many of these pieces are displayed in the first floor library. Miniature furniture and the purposes of its use have fascinated collectors both in Europe and America. There were a few different reasons for producing miniature furniture and they served different functions:

- Masterpieces, apprentice pieces, examination pieces (usually signed) as admission to a furniture corporation or guild—full-size furniture examples were more commonly made by apprentices for examination in France during the eighteenth-century, while miniature examples were used in the nineteenth-century
- Models, samples, show pieces, and advertisements in shop windows of furniture makers and retailers
- Actual beds for pets
- Children's furniture

The specific purposes of the miniature furniture in Hillwood's collection is difficult to discern, although the functions listed above cover the range of possibilities.

## Volunteer Appreciation Reception

Lisa Horvath, Volunteer Services Supervisor

On Monday, May 21, we honored the many contributions of our volunteers at the annual volunteer appreciation reception. With the highest number of attendees ever at 270 volunteers and guests, it was a lovely evening with glorious weather as we celebrated Hillwood's nearest and dearest. The evening's festivities included exclusive staff presentations in the mansion and dacha and a fabulous buffet under the tent with live music.



*Mansion docents Janice Brambilla, Kathi Haley, and Kevin Tomaine enjoying the evening*

Among the evening's highlights were the remarks from Ellen Charles, president emerita, and Kate Markert, executive director. Both shared how the volunteer reception is one of their favorite events at Hillwood and how fortunate Hillwood is to have such a devoted group of volunteers. "Your contributions to Hillwood are vast, from leading tours and maintaining the gardens to event preparation and sharing Hillwood with your family, friends, and colleagues," Ellen said, mentioning just a few of the ways volunteers help Hillwood be the "place fabulous lives."



*The beautiful floral centerpieces*

Kate thanked the volunteers for their dedication to Hillwood, highlighting the numerous hours and contributions volunteers share in order to provide the best possible visitor experience. With the volunteer program the largest in Hillwood's history with over 380 volunteers, "the skills and dedication [volunteers] bring are vital to ensuring [Hillwood] lives up to the standards set by Marjorie Post."

In addition to honoring the collective work of all of our volunteers, we also took time to acknowledge those in the volunteer cohort who are celebrating a major milestone with Hillwood this year. Listed on the following page you'll find the names of the forty-six volunteers who achieved five, ten, fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five years of volunteer service and the volunteers who joined the emeritus program in 2019. The emeritus program is for volunteers who have met or exceeded their service requirements for at least ten years and are stepping down from their volunteer duties. The emeritus program provides volunteers with the opportunity to stay connected to Hillwood's educational and social events as well as the benefits offered to active volunteers. Their names



*Horticulture volunteers Val and John Wheeler and guests*

have been added to the plaques near the mansion volunteer lounge and the horticulture break room, recognizing them for their many years and contributions to Hillwood.

### **Volunteers Recognized at the 2019 Volunteer Appreciation Reception**

<b>Emeritus Volunteers</b>	
Jean Baum Sarah Cutler Sally Herren Mary Anne Koromilas Sandy Meloan	Helene Meyers Wendy Nyre Joan Piper Delia Riso Sabine Turreilles
<b>5 Year</b>	
Ronnie Abrams Cheryl Alston William Busker Tina Byrd Lara Dajani Michael Dunham Paul Hildebrand Christie Kramer Elizabeth McGuinness Jan McKelvey	Paula McMartin Becky McWhite Mary Reyner Christabelle Salmon Mary Sheehan Per Soerensson Vee Smith Bill Wingate Marianne Winglee
<b>10 Year</b>	
Janice Brambilla John Fegan Susan Fisher Stephanie Partridge	Deborah Peck Carol Roberts Kiska Williams
<b>15 Year</b>	
Gretchen Bukowski Sally Burns Paula Christie	Natasha Morse Cecile O'Connor John Wheeler
<b>20 Year</b>	
Jim Peterson	
<b>25 Year</b>	
Victoria Cordova Ann Stevens Kelly	Maureen Valcour

Thank you for all you do—we are so fortunate to have such a devoted team at Hillwood!

## Recap of the Monighetti Cabinet Highlighted at the Volunteer Appreciation Reception

Dr. Wilfried Zeisler, Chief Curator



*The Monighetti Cabinet in its current location in the Icon Room*

At the volunteer appreciation reception on Monday, May 20, Dr. Wilfried Zeisler, chief curator, opened the Monighetti cabinet displayed in the Icon Room. The following is a summation of his presentation:

This ebonized wood, lapis lazuli and gilt bronze cabinet ([32.22](#)) with four doors is one of Hillwood's masterpieces of Russian furniture. It is also one of the volunteers' favorite pieces to share with visitors. Marjorie Post acquired this cherished piece in Soviet Russia in the late 1930s. She describes the piece in *Notes on Hillwood*, published in 1970:

"The Cabinet in ebony, ormolu and lapis lazuli was a gift in 1873 to Grand Duke Constantine and his wife Princess Alexandra of Saxe Altenburg to commemorate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. Their portraits hang on the inside of the doors. It stood formerly in the Marble Palace at Saint Petersburg and when I found it in a commission shop in Moscow four imperial miniatures on the outside had been removed, leaving empty places which I had filled with lapis lazuli medallions in Belgium."<sup>1</sup>

The cabinet is documented for the first time in the anteroom of the American Embassy in Brussels in 1939. Lavishly decorated in the neo-Renaissance style with gilt bronze mounts affixed to lapis lazuli panels, it was a gift from Emperor Alexander II and his wife, Empress Maria Alexandrovna, to Alexander's brother, Grand Duke Konstantin, to commemorate his twenty-fifth wedding anniversary with Grand Duchess Alexandra Iosifovna, born Princess of Saxe Altenburg. This is shown by the initials and inscriptions at the top of the cabinet: the interlaced K and A on the escutcheon and the dates of the wedding, August 30, 1848, and of the silver anniversary, August 30, 1873. Russian archival material has confirmed this prestigious provenance. The piece was described in 1873 in the archives of the Peterhof Lapidary Works as "one ebonized wood cabinet with lapis lazuli décor, gilt bronze, and four enameled coat-of-arms."<sup>2</sup> The four medallions that adorned the cabinet seem to have been removed prior to the sale to Marjorie Post. They were very precious, made of enamel on a surface of solid gold. The preparatory drawing for the cabinet by Monighetti<sup>3</sup> show the four medallions, and they are also seen, again in situ, in the Marble Palace's small dining room in Grand Duchess Alexandra's quarters.<sup>4</sup> Their current whereabouts remain unknown.

The Peterhof Lapidary Works archives document also mentions the team involved in the creation of the cabinet: court architect Ippolit Monighetti (1819-78), court luxury goods supplier Nicholls and Plinke, and the Peterhof Lapidary Works. Monighetti was a Russian architect of Swiss origin. During his successful career in Russia, he built several palaces and created designs for the imperial manufactories. Hillwood has several glass and porcelain works from the imperial yacht, *Derzhava*, which were made after his models ([25.341.1-2](#); [25.342](#); [25.343.1-12](#); 2018.10.1-2; [23.479.1-2](#)).

Nicholls and Plinke, also known as Le Magasin Anglais, was a prominent luxury goods workshop and retailer established in St. Petersburg during the 1800s. Hillwood's collection comprises a selection of works by the firm ([11.126](#); [18.31](#); [12.114](#); [12.167.1-12](#) – knives made for Grand Duke Konstantin). The Peterhof Lapidary Works was founded in the 1720s and produced small objects made of colored, carved, and polished stone and panels of Russian mosaics. This team collaborated on a set of furniture similar to the cabinet, made of lapis lazuli and gilt bronze for the Lyon Hall at Tsarskoe Selo, whose restoration was completed in June 2019 after having been damaged during World War II. In the late 1930s, when Marjorie Post travelled throughout Soviet Russia as the ambassador and bought Hillwood's cabinet, she saw the original setting in the Tsarskoe Selo palace.



*Archival photo of the Monighetti cabinet displaying some of Marjorie Post's enameled silver at Hillwood, circa 1970. Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens Archives, photographed by Fred M. Hublitz*

When Marjorie Post moved back to the United States, the lapis cabinet was installed in the entry hall of Tregaron in Washington, D.C. At Hillwood, the piece was displayed in the Icon Room, where it still stands today. During Marjorie Post's life, the inside was used to display part of her collection of Russian art, especially her Russian enameled silver. Two medallion drawings by Russian painter Natalia Makukhina (1823-1900) hung on the inside of the two top doors but are now in storage ([52.14](#) and [52.15](#)). They are portraits of Grand Duke Konstantin and his wife Alexandra, which were acquired by Marvin Ross in Italy around 1965. They came from the collection of Queen Olga of Greece (1851-1926), the daughter of Grand Duke Konstantin and Alexandra.

1. *Notes on Hillwood*, p. 21.
2. Russian State Historical Archives, St. Petersburg, Fund 504, division 1, document 1140, pages 37-39. See: N. Mavrodina, *Iskusstvo russkikh kamnoretzov XVIII-XIX vekov katalog kolleksii* (Sankt-Peterburg : Izdatel'stvo Gosudarstvennogo Ermitazha, 2007), 467.
3. V. N. Listov, *Ippolit Monighetti* (Leningrad : Stroizdat, 1976), 130-132.
4. Y. Trubinov, *Mramornyi dvoret s i Sluzhebnyi dom : ocherki istorii arkhitektury zdaniĭ i sudeb obitatelei* (S.Peterburg : Izdatel'stvo "Nestor-Istorii a ", 2018), 374-376.

## Hillwood's Events and Program Page

Be sure to visit Hillwood's [Events and Programs](#) page to see the exciting lineup of festivals, programs, and lectures occurring at Hillwood in the coming months.

## What's Coming Up in the Gardens

Jessica Bonilla, Head Gardener

As we settle into the summer months, it is amazing to look back on what we have accomplished already this year. It seems just like yesterday we were removing the tulips and other spring bulbs to make way for the summer annuals. Now the nearly 10,000 flowers, vines and tropicals are filling in and making robust displays.

Our two large planting spaces are also filling in nicely. The top of the woodland trail now blends in effortlessly with the rest of the garden. The project at the stairs near the administration building is also gaining maturity and giving the area a more finished look. If you have not had a chance to see these projects, please take some time to check them out. Thank you to all the horticulture volunteers that helped make them a success.



*Lunar Lawn bed summer annual display*

Our volunteers were also a huge help in preparation for some special June events. Of course getting ready for our annual gala is no small feat, but this year, we also had two visits by the American Public Gardens Association the week of June 17-21. This coalition of public garden institutions and professionals held their week-long symposium in Washington this year. Hillwood hosted a director's dinner and a busload of garden experts toured the grounds on the event's final day. We made a lot of new friends, and heard very positive feedback.



*Dedication plaque for Adelaide Close Riggs in the woodland path garden*

Another special event on campus was the dedication of the woodland path garden in honor of Adelaide Close Riggs, Marjorie Merriweather Post's eldest daughter. Adelaide championed improvements to the gardens, and we were privileged to have many family members and friends at Hillwood for this special dedication.

Looking to the future, we have a handful of projects still in motion. Plants should be arriving any time to add interest under the big deodar cedar by the motor court. Strategic trees are being removed for the construction of the Collections & Research Center. Soil in several of

the beds in the rose garden will be remediated and planted with new roses. Masonwork is currently underway on the patio of the Four Seasons Overlook. From there, John Pond and company will move to restore the walkway from the western armillary sphere to the vista terrace.

Thank you again for your support of the gardens and keep growing!

## Plant Profile: The New Lunar Lawn Bed

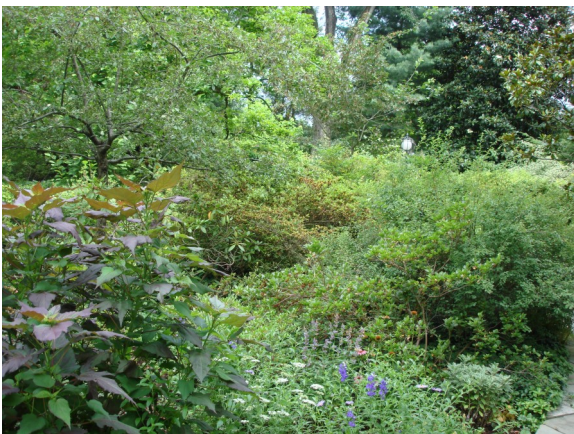
Jane Berger, Newsletter Volunteer

If you have not already noticed, the eastern side of the Lunar Lawn has an entirely new look. (That is the bed to the left as you are facing the vista terrace).

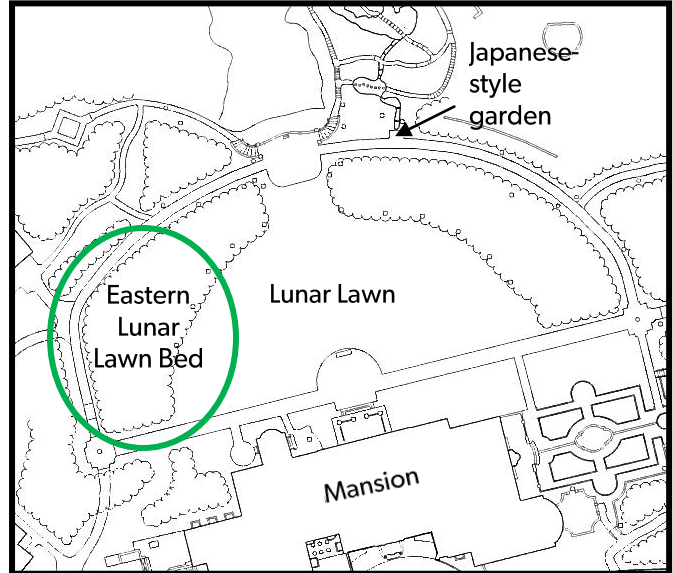
A huge storm on April 8, 2017 brought down one of Hillwood's original elm trees and destroyed many plants, including dogwood trees, forsythias, lilacs, and rhododendrons. After the elm came down, much of the bed was flooded with sun, and many of the shade-loving Japanese aucuba (*Aucuba japonica*), which had been there for years, succumbed as well.

Hillwood called in Robinson Anderson Summers Inc. landscape architects to re-design the bed. In the new plan, Allan Summers left in place some notable survivors, among them two dogwoods, a Yoshino cherry, a holly, some arborvitae, a magnolia, a camellia, and a number of hydrangeas and azaleas.

He added a sourwood tree (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), a purple smoketree (*Cotinus coggygria* 'Purple Smoke'), a second Yoshino cherry, and a new disease-resistant elm (*Ulmus americana* 'Valley Forge'). The east bed, installed in the fall of 2017, is now a lot more interesting. It has a number of new hydrangeas of different kinds, a redvein enkianthus (*Enkianthus campanulata*), a bush clover (*Lespedeza thunbergii*), which you can't miss when it is in bloom, a 'Gibraltar' ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Seward'), and a 'Sonic Bloom' weigela (*Weigela florida* 'Sonic Bloom').



Some of the plants in the new eastern Lunar Lawn bed



Map of the Lunar Lawn

And things kept on changing. A large oriental spruce came down in spring 2018 and was replaced with *Picea orientalis* 'Atrovirens'. Because of the gaps after the tree came down, Jessica Bonilla, head gardener, moved a number of plants and completed the design with eye-catching perennials, including 'Lo & Behold Blue Chip Jr.' buddleia, 'Dark Mystery' hibiscus, 'Kim's Knee High' coneflower, and the brilliant golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*).

Take a stroll by the Lunar Lawn—you will be amazed by the stunning colors and the great diversity of new plants.

## Hillwood Welcomes Sixteen New Garden Docents

Audra Kelly, Director of Interpretation, and Lisa Horvath, Volunteer Services Supervisor

Please join Hillwood in welcoming sixteen newly-trained garden docents to the volunteer corps.



*From left, Audra Kelly (staff), Lisa Horvath (staff), Rick Ferenci, Anne Novak, Julia Berry, Linda Greensfelder, Janice McHenry, Lynn Feinberg, Leo Sanchez, Amy Nadel, Jenny Krivanek, Jim Higgins, Sheila Peden, Julie Maner, Felicia Zannino-Baker, Natalia Koliadina, Sophia Coyne-Kosnak, and Sharon Courtin*

The garden docents completed an intensive five-month training from January through May 2019, led by Audra Kelly, director of interpretation, and Lisa Horvath, volunteer services supervisor. The 2019 class is the third garden docent training since 2000. The training was well timed to keep pace with Hillwood's robust visitor attendance and garden tour interest.

Docents gained knowledge about Hillwood's gardens, founder, and visitors, as well as a diverse set of skills and methods for engaging visitors. All Hillwood volunteers have access through the volunteer website to many of the [training materials](#), including [video recordings](#) of lectures given by Hillwood staff on a plethora of garden and Hillwood-related topics.

## Welcome New Volunteers

We are delighted to add two new horticulture volunteers and one new visitor services volunteer to Hillwood's volunteer program this summer. Please join us in welcoming:

### **Horticulture**

Joelle Hull  
Jim Wolford

### **Interpretation**

Tomoko Hirata



## Volunteer Spotlight

Hillwood's volunteer corps continues to grow with more than 380 active volunteers, making it the largest in the history of the institution. The volunteer spotlight is an opportunity to get to know some of your fellow volunteers a little better.

### **Nina Gradia**

Nina Gradia joined Hillwood as a mansion docent in 2011. Nina was looking for a teaching outlet, and a tour at Hillwood cemented her interest in becoming a docent here. She enjoys making the stories of the collection come alive for visitors, and the beauty of Hillwood "entices me to transfer my love of this home and its objects to others." Her personal experiences with enthusiastic yet engaging tour guides and docents also influences her approach to sharing Hillwood.



For Nina, the relationships with fellow volunteers and staff members have been some of the most rewarding benefits of volunteering at Hillwood. But she also loves the "constant stream of knowledge available to us as volunteers." Nina often catches up on her Hillwood reading while exercising, a fun way to make her workouts more compelling. Nina has recently expanded her volunteer role to serve on the Advisory Council, where she continues to share her Hillwood knowledge and enthusiasm with others.

### **Linda "Lin" Nemiroff**

Linda "Lin" Nemiroff came to Hillwood in 2001 after visiting as part of a landscape technology certificate program. She was enthralled and reached out soon afterwards to volunteer. She is a Sunday morning greenhouse volunteer, whose responsibilities include harvesting and conditioning plants for the upcoming week's floral arrangements and maintaining and caring for plants in the greenhouse. This includes harvesting flowers in the greenhouse, transplanting seedlings, and more. She enjoys her Sunday mornings at Hillwood as the "tranquil time of her week." Lin also values the time with her fellow volunteers and is "privileged to be a Hillwood

volunteer and proud to contribute to Hillwood's growth and success," having watched it grown to its present day popularity.

As a D.C. native, Lin visited the museums on the National Mall throughout her youth and continues to enjoy the educational offerings museums provide. Hillwood holds a special place for Lin as a creative and gardening outlet for which she is grateful. It provides an opportunity for her to fuel her interests and feels like a second home. In fact, if Lin could ask Marjorie Post any question, she would want to know where Marjorie Post felt the most at home. For Lin, Hillwood provides some of the comforts of home, out in the gardens.

Hillwood is thrilled to have Nina and Lin as members of our dynamic volunteer corps, and we look forward to continuing to highlight volunteers in future editions of *The Post Serial*.

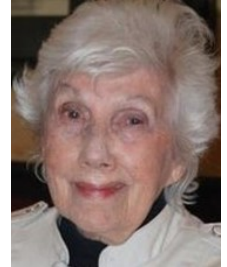
## In Memoriam

Lisa Horvath, Volunteer Services Supervisor

It is with a heavy heart that I write to inform you that we have lost two beloved Hillwood volunteers in recent months.

### Beatrice "Bea" Neidorf

Beatrice "Bea" Neidorf passed away on June 1, her 104th birthday. Bea joined Hillwood in 2001 as a visitor services volunteer ("VSV") and retired at the age of 98 in 2013. Best known for her impeccable style and intrepid spirit, Bea loved her volunteer position at Hillwood and the people she met through it. Bea is survived by her three daughters, four grandsons, and four great grandchildren.



### Lois Topping

Lois Topping died peacefully on May 30. A longtime Hillwood mansion docent, Lois had a deep understanding and appreciation of Russian art after living in Moscow while her husband was on assignment there. With an infectious personality and sense of humor, Lois shared her love of learning and knowledge with others at Hillwood. Lois is survived by her two sons, her daughter-in-law, her brother and sister-in-law, and several nieces and nephews.

## Staff Farewells

Join Hillwood in saying goodbye and best of luck to the following staff members, who have left Hillwood in recent weeks. We wish them all the best in their new endeavours.



**Dalton Baughn**

Visitor Services Associate



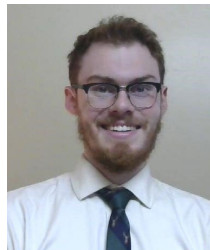
**Beth Blackwood**

Digital Assets Librarian



**Kathryn Fay**

Collections and Exhibition  
Administrator



**Elliot Mackin**

Visitor Services Associate



**Abby Stambach**

Head of Archives and  
Special Collections Library

## Welcome Hillwood's Newest Staff Members

Hillwood is pleased to welcome three new staff members.



### Lindsey Adkins

Lindsey Adkins joined Hillwood as the development officer in July 2019. Originally from Michigan, Lindsey has lived in the D.C. area since 2007 and has fundraised for various nonprofits over the past twelve years. She holds a bachelor of arts in art history from the University of Michigan and a master of arts in museum studies from The George Washington University. She was a member of the 2014 docent class at Hillwood but was unable to finish because of a move to London. She is thrilled to be back at Hillwood!

### Lulu Adler

Lulu Adler recently graduated from Alfred University with a bachelors in fine arts in art and design as well as a minor in environmental science. She joined Hillwood's staff in July 2019 as a part-time visitor services associate. Originally from California, she moved to the east coast for school and recently moved to DC. She has worked in customer service for a couple years and more specifically, worked the front desk at her university's library, where she gained experience in the special collections room, handling the fragile and rare materials. Lulu will be at Hillwood on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.



### Nancy Swallow

Nancy Swallow joined Hillwood on June 10 as the supervisory museum registrar. Before Hillwood, Nancy was the collections manager and registrar at Cheekwood Estate and Gardens in Nashville, Tennessee. Previously, she was the head registrar at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and worked at the Worcester Art Museum in Massachusetts and the Menil Collection in Houston, Texas.

Please join us in welcoming Lindsey, Lulu, and Nancy to Hillwood!

## Volunteer Website Resources

Be sure to visit the [volunteer website](#) to see the multitude of resources available for Hillwood volunteers. From docent training materials and new volunteer onboarding documents to video recordings of volunteer education lectures and public programs and *Post Serial* archives, the volunteer website provides a depth of Hillwood information.

## Museum Attendants Join Hillwood's Seasonal Staff

Victor Braschnewitz, Head of Security

This summer, we are once again staffing the mansion, the gardens, and [Mid-Century Master: The Photography of Alfred Eisenstaedt](#) in the Adirondack building with Museum Attendants (MAs). This is our third year utilizing MAs during the summer season, and they will be at Hillwood on a temporary basis through August, working a part-time schedule. Their primary responsibility is to be an extra set of eyes and ears for security so that the appropriate department can address any matters that arise. MAs will assist with the coat check and crowd flow in the mansion, serving on-station in the Adirondack building, greeting guests and counting attendance, and roving the estate.

This year's MAs began at Hillwood on Friday, May 31 after a two-day orientation. Please be sure to introduce yourself to them and join us in welcoming some of our newest team members:



Abigail Coakley



Rong Gao



Tatyana Hawkins



Margaret Loane



Annabelle Orlando



Alexandra Williams



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