



Hillwood Volunteer Program

Please enjoy reading this month's volunteer email, featuring a new fashion display in the French drawing room, preparation for the new Collections and Research Center, Hillwood's virtual school programs, upcoming volunteer education, and much more!

RECAP | VOLUNTEER BUSINESS MEETING & REOPENING NEXT STEPS

Thank you for joining us for the January 27 Virtual Volunteer Business Meeting. During the one ½-hour Zoom webinar, the senior management team presented Hillwood's new strategic plan, including updated goals and major projects for the next five years. The meeting concluded with a lively and informative Q&A session. The video of the [volunteer business meeting](#) is now available. We strongly recommend those who could not attend the virtual meeting to watch the recording.

As Hillwood prepares to reopen to members on February 16, followed by the public on March 2, we recently shared how Hillwood provides a safe working environment for staff and what metrics we are considering for a safe return of on-site volunteer service. [Be sure to read the full update here on the volunteer website.](#)

FLORAL FASHIONS IN THE FRENCH DRAWING ROOM

Fashion during the 1910s reflected the unique aesthetic of the period combining nostalgia, modernism, and global influences. The two evening gowns on display in the French drawing room, along with the dress worn in the portrait of Marjorie Post nearby, embrace this sentiment. With their floral motifs, the gowns also create a thematic connection to Hillwood's upcoming exhibition *The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir Kanevsky*, opening to the public on April 6. The special display was installed early to offer an exclusive first look for the member reopening starting on February 16.

To learn more about the gowns and their design inspirations, read the full article [here](#).



Evening dress, New York, about 1913, Silk satin, chiffon, machine-made cotton lace, silk and wax flowers, Bequest of Marjorie Merriweather Post, 1973 (48.31)

NEW COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH CENTER

Preparations for the Upcoming Library Move

As the new Collections and Research Center (C&RC) nears completion, archives and special collections staff are preparing the library and archival materials for the move to their new home. Laid end to end, the materials would stretch over half a mile! [Click here to learn more about the upcoming spring move and get a sneak peek at the new reading room.](#)

Phase One of the New Garden

We are excited to announce that phase one of the Collections and Research Center garden is almost complete. This new garden will play a central role in our dialog with visitors about sustainable landscaping. Phase one included planting of the bio-retention pond and installation of a Porous Pave path that included a dry laid stone retaining wall and handrails to make the sloping path ADA compliant. [To learn more about the garden's design, click here to read the full article.](#)

HILLWOOD'S VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH

In a year like no other, the pandemic impacted our lives and routines, forcing many to find new ways of tackling daily activities. As you know, schools were not immune and transitioned to remote learning, with most area students continuing to learn from home as we enter the first months of 2021.

Despite the challenges of remote learning, Hillwood has used this opportunity to not only continue to actively engage with student groups, but reached new audiences throughout the DC public and public charter schools. By bringing dynamic experiences directly to online classrooms, such as a variety of virtual field trips and online materials, Hillwood has expanded our reach by tripling the number of schools we typically serve.

[Read the full article here to learn more about Hillwood's innovative approach to online programming, the responses from local schools, and what is in store for 2021.](#)

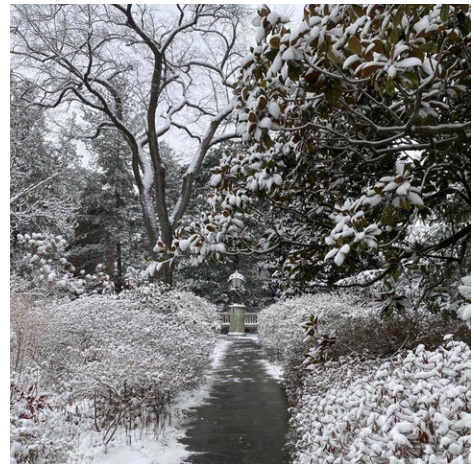


A student shares a picture of the crown she created during the Treasure Quest virtual field trip.

IN THE GARDENS

Several recent rounds of snow have added a delightful charm to the gardens all the while keeping gardeners busy at shoveling paths and drives. Despite the wintry conditions, signs of spring are sprouting to life at nearly every turn in the gardens.

[Please enjoy a few recent photos from the gardens.](#)



A fresh coating of snow in the garden

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMING

This winter offers a variety of exciting virtual programs for volunteers. Please mark your calendars and join us online for these upcoming sessions this month and next.

Flowers in February

Tuesdays, February 16 and 23 (10:30 a.m.)

Immerse yourself in flowers this February and join Drew Asbury, Hillwood's horticulturist and volunteer manager, for a four-part webinar series focused solely on flowers! Utilizing Hillwood's cutting garden

as the inspiration, learn about some of Hillwood's favorite cool season and warm season flowers and be inspired to design your very own garden full of flowers. Each week, we will dive deeper into the world of flowers and Drew will answer your questions in real time while he shares lessons learned from his ever-evolving approach to managing Hillwood's cutting garden. All volunteers are invited to attend and more details and a Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed closer to the program date.

Hillwood Huddle

During these 30-minute informal sessions, volunteers and staff will have the opportunity to reconnect virtually with one another over Zoom and share their passion for all things Hillwood. Participants will be divided into smaller breakout rooms. Halfway through the 30-minute program, the breakout rooms will be "reshuffled," allowing volunteers to mix and mingle with a larger number of volunteers.

Advance registration is required. Click on the links below to register for an upcoming Hillwood Huddle. Once your registration is confirmed, you will receive via email the Zoom link and meeting instructions.

February 24 (3 p.m.)

March 15 (3 p.m.)

Horticulture Happenings: A Virtual Garden Update

Tuesday, March 23 (10:30 a.m.)

Join Jessica Bonilla, director of horticulture, for her annual recap of the last few months and a look ahead at all the exciting projects coming to the garden in 2021. All volunteers are invited to attend and we look forward to gathering with you virtually. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed closer to the event date.

NEW ONLINE CONTENT

Missed a lecture or volunteer email? Be sure to visit the volunteer website and catch up on the newest online content. The [Lecture Video Archive](#) page has been updated with the following videos:

- January 27 [Virtual Volunteer Business Meeting](#)
- February 2 [Flowers in February \(Part 1\)](#)
- February 4 [Hollywood's Architect: The Paul R. Williams Story](#)
- February 9 [Flowers in February \(Part 2\)](#)

The volunteer website also features a new and improved [Stay Connected: Volunteer Email](#) page, which includes PDFs of the volunteer email and a recap of topics from each month.

CURATORIAL UPDATE: SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Hillwood's Rebecca Tilles, associate curator of 18th century French & western European fine and decorative arts, will present at The Furniture History Society on Sunday, February 21. Her lecture will

focus on “Highlights from Hillwood: Marjorie Merriweather Post’s Taste for 18th Century European Furniture.” For program details and pricing, visit [The Furniture History Society’s event page](#).

IN MEMORIAM: ANN GARRIOTT

It is with a heavy heart I write to inform you of the passing of a Hillwood volunteer last month. Ann Garriott passed away in late January. Ann joined Hillwood’s volunteer program as a visitor services volunteer in October 2018. She was recently trained as a metadata volunteer last fall and had been volunteering with archives and special collections team virtually these past few months.



Volunteer Ann Garriott

Ann had a meaningful impact on all she encountered over her two-plus years of volunteering. Her dedication to Hillwood was evident in all her endeavors. Ann brought great enthusiasm and energy to both her VSV and metadata roles. As a welcoming, kind, and bright presence at Hillwood, Ann was eager to share her knowledge and Hillwood’s mission with every visitor who walked into the visitor center. She quickly built friendships with her fellow VSVs and often shared insightful observations that helped further enhance the visitor experience. Ann’s appetite for learning extended into her new role as a metadata volunteer where she became a valuable member of the pilot team, completing the metadata for 300 pages in just the first six weeks. Ann’s passion and kind spirit will be greatly missed.

While no arrangements have been shared at this time, we will keep you informed of any news.

STAFF HELP & RESOURCES

Thank you for being a part of the Hillwood community. Our "virtual doors" are always open. Feel free to reach us at volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org.

-The Volunteer Support Team

Lisa Leyh, Drew Asbury, and Samantha Hernandez

HILLWOOD FROM HOME

You can continue to enjoy the museum and gardens through our comprehensive digital offerings, including the extensive online collections, educational video library, immersive mobile app, and virtual programming.

[Explore >](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Missed an email? Visit Stay Connected: Volunteer Email on the volunteer website for an archive of articles, images, and videos shared in the volunteer email and catch up on any reading you may have missed.

[Connect >](#)

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