



Please enjoy reading this month's volunteer email, featuring a behind-the-scenes look at the January cleaning and new mansion displays, a review of Hillwood's successful social media efforts this past year, updates from Horticulture, upcoming volunteer education, and much more!

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## HILLWOOD REOPENED

We are thrilled to welcome back the broader community to Hillwood this month. As a reminder, we will continue to require advance reservations and limit capacity in the mansion. Be sure to visit Hillwood's website to [plan your visit](#) and refresh yourself on the temporary visitor guidelines.

While we all are eager to return to our regular operation, we do not have a date yet for on-site volunteer service with the exception of the Horticulture pilot program. In that light, we wanted to share an update on how Hillwood provides a safe working environment for staff and what metrics we are considering for a safe return of on-site volunteer service. [Read the full update here on the volunteer website](#).

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## JANUARY CLEANING AND NEW MANSION INSTALLATION

The collections and curatorial teams have been hard at work the past two months preparing the mansion for reopening. For three weeks this winter, the collections staff along with a contracted art handler have deep cleaned each room and case in the mansion, de-installed an exhibition, and performed a variety of behind-the-scene tasks, such as vacuuming Scampi's bed in the first floor library. Their efforts are reflected in every sparkling nook and cranny of the mansion. Over the winter, Hillwood's much anticipated exhibition *The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir Kanevsky* received a new opening date of April 6. The curatorial team quickly adapted, creating additional special displays as part of the newly unveiled mansion rotations offering visitors an added bonus to their visit this month.

[Read the full article here to learn more about Hillwood's January cleaning and new mansion displays.](#)



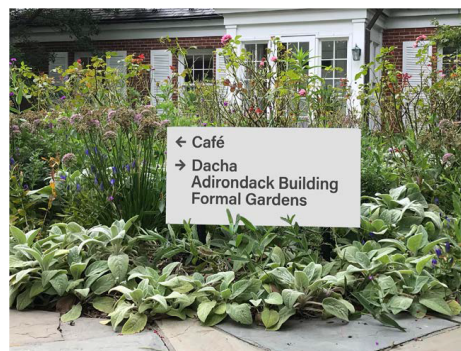
*Supervisory Museum Registrar Nancy Swallow vacuuming Scampi's bed in the first floor library*

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## 2020 WAYFINDING SIGNAGE UPDATE

A major project for the visitor services team last year was to replace all of the wayfinding signage around the estate for the first time in over fifteen years. With more than fifty signs spanning from the upper gate to the access roads, including stop, speed limit, directional, and parking signs, the project took several months to complete. This project also gave Hillwood the opportunity to make some important safety updates.

[Learn more about the new signage redesign and see a selection of before and after photos.](#)



*Directional signage consolidated for improved wayfinding adjacent to the cutting garden*

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## MUSEUM SHOP STAFF PICK: HILLWOOD NOTECARDS

We are thrilled to announce the imminent arrival of our new notecards featuring Hillwood's stunning floral arrangements of Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer, as interpreted by artist Jake Gariepy. The back of each card has a comment from Ami on what inspired the arrangement, as well as a list of flowers used. Six different images are available as a set.

Remember to shop online at [store.hillwoodmuseum.org](https://store.hillwoodmuseum.org) and use your discount code of Volunteer21. To shop in person, please remember to [book your reservation](#) in advance by selecting a date and time to visit the estate. The museum shop is open Tuesday through Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thank you for supporting the shop!



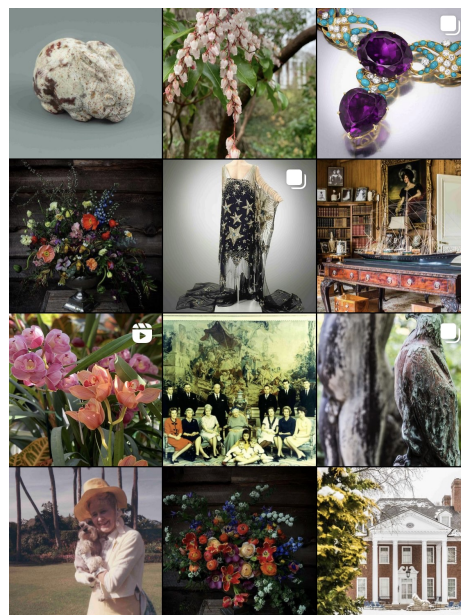
*New notecards featuring Hillwood's stunning floral arrangements*

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## 2020 SOCIAL MEDIA RECAP

Though 2020 was a difficult year, among the silver linings was a dedication to Hillwood's digital presence, particularly on social media. Despite Hillwood's closed doors, we were able to continue sharing beauty, inspiration, and education as we provided content to our community at home.

Read how Hillwood expertly put our social media accounts, such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, to good use in increasing engagement and building upon our community of Hillwood fanatics.



*Hillwood's Instagram page*

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## HORTICULTURE NEWS

### **Program Update from Drew Asbury, Horticulturist and Volunteer Manager**

The horticulture department is delighted to announce the outdoor volunteer pilot program will resume on Tuesday, March 16. Due to social distancing requirements, we are only able to accommodate volunteers who participated as outdoor garden volunteers and cutting garden volunteers in last's year program. A limited number of 10 volunteers per week will assist gardeners throughout the outdoor gardens. Online scheduling, reduced two-hour shifts, and increased social distancing and safety



procedures are just a few of the new protocols in place to ensure the safety of volunteers and staff. We are grateful for the pilot team's support as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times together.

The ongoing social distancing measures, including a reduction in on-site staff and visitors as well as the repurposing of office and meeting spaces for on-site staff, continues to limit how many volunteers we can safely return to campus at this time. While we all are eager to return to our regular operation, we do not have a return date yet for indoor greenhouse and floral volunteers. We are utilizing this temporary pause on volunteer service to reevaluate the volunteer program, with a goal to better align volunteer roles, duties, and shift times with the needs of the garden and staffing schedules. We are committed to continuing to offer a rewarding volunteer experience while prioritizing the health and safety of those on campus. We look forward to sharing more about the horticulture volunteer program and inviting more volunteers back to active service as we move further beyond the pandemic.

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### Greenhouse Update

The greenhouses are now open and welcoming visitors to enjoy the splendors of Orchid Month. In addition to housing orchids blooming in every color, form and fragrance imaginable, visitors will also enjoy the newly renovated floors in the greenhouse. The Horticulture and Facility teams have kept busy schedules over November and December safely moving and storing plants and pouring new waterproof floors.

[Read about these and other exciting projects currently taking place in Hillwood's one-stop botanical oasis.](#)



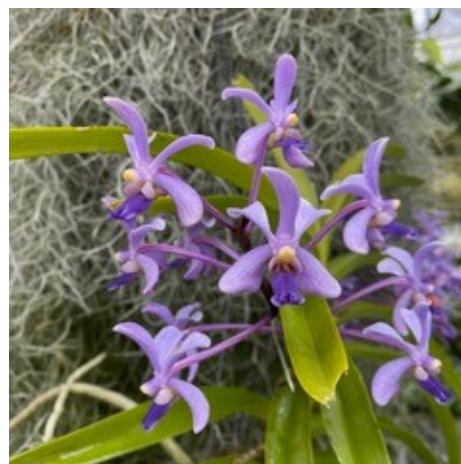
*Spring crops fill the benches in the estate greenhouse*

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### In the Gardens

The gardens are springing to life as early season bulbs and flowering shrubs begin to flower throughout the gardens while the orchid collection is in full swing inside the greenhouses.

[Please enjoy a few recent photos from the gardens and greenhouses captured by Drew Asbury, horticulturist and volunteer manager.](#)



*Vanda coeruleascens x karnada 'Hampton' is a miniature vanda with a fragrance reminiscent of grape soda*

Mark your calendars and join us online for these upcoming virtual volunteer sessions in March and April.

### **Hillwood Huddle**

**Monday, March 15 (3 p.m.)**

During this 30-minute informal session, 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 here to register for the March 15 Hillwood Huddle](#). Once your registration is confirmed, you will receive via email the Zoom link and meeting instructions.

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### **Horticulture Happenings: A Virtual Garden Update**

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

From new plantings to the annual seasonal displays, the horticulture department will be quite busy this spring. 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. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed to volunteers closer to the event date.

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### **Unconscious Bias Webinar**

**Friday, March 26 (2 p.m.)**

As part of Hillwood’s staff and volunteer engagement goals, we are pleased to offer the interactive webinar offered through a third party contracted by Hillwood.

Given today’s current crisis situation, we must start with our own self-awareness. Are we on top of our biases, or might we be harboring some prejudices that lie outside of our awareness? This program will define unconscious bias and give us a framework in which to understand it. With numerous discussion opportunities, participants will explore biases, examine the conflict that arises between one’s natural inclination to categorize and the conscious drive towards diversity, look at how unconscious bias is measured and identify ways to overcome these biases.

To RSVP for the webinar, [please complete this short survey](#). The webinar link and information will be shared via email.

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### **Reminiscences and Reflections: Twenty Years of Gardening at Hillwood**

**Tuesday, April 6 (10:30 a.m.)**

Join gardener Frances Vandenbroucke as she prepares for her retirement in October and talks with director of horticulture Jessica Bonilla about Frances' varied experiences taking care of the Japanese-style garden and other areas over the course of her Hillwood career. All volunteers are invited to attend. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed to all volunteers closer to the event date.

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### **Volunteer Lecture: *The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir Kanevsky***

## Monday, April 12 (10:30 a.m.)

Join Dr. Wilfried Zeisler, chief curator, for an overview of Hillwood's new exhibition *The Porcelain Flowers of Vladimir Kanevsky*, on view in the mansion starting April 6. Inspired by flowers grown throughout Marjorie Post's gardens at Hillwood, including camellias, tulips, and dahlias, artist Vladimir Kanevsky's sculptures will take the place of these live arrangements, bursting with color in the dining room, breakfast room, pavilion, French drawing room, and Post's bedroom suite. Featuring nearly 35 works, the exhibition is next in a series of collaborations with contemporary artists, such as Bouke de Vries in 2019, Philip Haas in 2016, and Isabel de Borchgrave in 2013.

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## NEW ONLINE CONTENT

Be sure to visit the [volunteer website](#) and catch up on the newest online content, including the two February lecture series now available on the "Lecture Video Archives" page.

### Flowers in February Volunteer Lectures

From adding color and charm to providing food and shelter for pollinators and birds, flowers are a great addition to any garden bed. This past February, Drew Asbury hosted a four-part lecture series for volunteers focusing on Hillwood's cutting garden. The series offers a deeper dive into how the garden's design provides a continual succession of flowers through spring, summer, and fall while also maximizing the garden's ecological potential by maintaining the garden with sustainable techniques. Click on the links below to view the recordings and learn how you can introduce these ideas and techniques into your own garden.

- February 2 | Part 1: [Hillwood's Cutting Garden](#)
  - February 9 | Part 2: [Layers of a Cutting Garden](#)
  - February 16 | Part 3: [Cool Season Flowers](#)
  - February 23 | Part 4: [Warm Season Flowers](#)
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### Great Homes and Gardens Series

Last month, Hillwood's eighth annual Great Homes and Gardens series concluded with the highest ever attendance with 585 participants, a 40% increase compared to the previous attendance high in 2020. In keeping with Hillwood's anti-racism plan, we intentionally featured diverse speakers and subjects that resonated not only with the longstanding theme of the series, but contemporary events and diverse audiences. Royal Kennedy Rodgers and Kathy McCampbell Vance presented and discussed their documentary film\* on the life of Paul Revere Williams, the first licensed Black architect. Stephen Byrns presented on the glory, ruin and rebirth of Untermyer Gardens in New York. Kara Newport led a virtual tour of Filoli, the historic site that previously exhibited *Rich Soil* by Kristine Mays. Brent Leggs, director of the National Trust's African American Cultural Action Fund, discussed the importance of preserving historic properties associated with Black history. The lecture recordings are now available on the volunteer website, Hillwood's YouTube channel, and linked below for easy access.

- February 4: [Hollywood's Architect: The Paul R. Williams Story](#)
- February 11: [The Glory, Ruin, and Rebirth of Untermyer Gardens](#) by Stephen Byrns

- February 18: *Filoli: From Family Home to Cultural Center* by Kara Newport
- February 25: *Exploring the American Story: Preservation as a Path for Equitable Interpretation* by Brent Leggs

\*Due to copyright reasons, the documentary film is not included in the lecture recording. The documentary is available to view from [PBS SoCal's website](#).

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## IN MEMORIAM: ILSE STAUFFER AND CLAIRE LENT

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of two former Hillwood volunteers last month: Ilse Stauffer and Claire Lent.

Ilse Stauffer had been a mansion docent for over 15 years from 2000-2015. Well respected as a thoughtful and informed docent, Ilse enjoyed sharing her knowledge and stories with her fellow volunteers as much as the visitors. I have fond memories chatting with Ilse in the volunteer lounge in-between tours discussing the latest book she had read and a story from her past travels. [Click here to for the Washington Post obituary](#).

Claire Lent had been a mansion docent from 1993-1997. In recent communications, Claire's eldest son had remarked how much she enjoyed her time as a mansion docent and often spoke of Hillwood. Staff who had the pleasure of working with Claire remember her joy of learning, friendly demeanor, and pleasure in teaching visitors about Hillwood. [Click here for the Washington Post Obituary](#).

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## 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](mailto:volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org).

-The Volunteer Support Team

Lisa Leyh, Drew Asbury, and Samantha Hernandez

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### HILLWOOD FROM HOME

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 >](#)

### PLAN YOUR VISIT

To visit Hillwood, be sure to book advance reservations and review the temporary visitor guidelines. Don't forget to stay up-to-date on Hillwood's virtual programming through the Events and Programs page.

[Visit >](#)

### 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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# HILLWOOD

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