



Please enjoy reading this month's volunteer email, and learn more about Hillwood's upcoming exhibitions, new vendors in the museum shop, digitizing Marjorie Merriweather Post's papers, volunteer programming, and much more!

VOLUNTEER SURVEY: RETURN TO ON-SITE SERVICE

With restrictions lifting, staff has been working on a timeline to bring volunteers back to their on-site roles at Hillwood. To aid in our planning, we would like to take this opportunity to capture your concerns regarding on-site roles, availability for service, and expectations for returning once it is safe to do so.

[Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey.](#) The survey closes on July 6. Staff will be in touch in July with the survey results and next steps for volunteer service. Please note Hillwood's volunteer operations currently remain limited.

EXPANDING CAPACITY

In light of the new CDC findings regarding the efficacy of vaccines and with the great majority of Hillwood staff fully vaccinated, Hillwood is pleased to share we are moving into the next phase of our recovery plan as of June 12, 2021. This next phase includes increasing capacity for the visitor experience and staffing the visitor center with staff and a small pilot team of visitor services volunteers.

In accordance with the latest D.C. Mayoral Order, Hillwood will return to our normal (pre-COVID) capacity limits for on-site visits:

- Starting June 12, Hillwood will no longer require advanced, timed-entry reservations.
- Day-of, in-person ticketing will be available in the visitor center in addition to advance reservations. Visitors can arrive to Hillwood any time during regular operating hours.
- The capacity restrictions for indoor spaces, such as the mansion and special exhibitions, will be lifted.
- All visitors must check-in with the staff at the front desk in the visitor center.
- A small pilot team of VSVs will be scheduled for shortened two-hour shifts in the visitor center to help support the visitor experience.

This is an exciting step towards normalcy and we are eager to learn from the pilot team how best to support additional roles across campus.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Roaring Twenties: The Life and Style of Marjorie Merriweather Post

Opening June 12, 2021

Explore the Jazz Age through the lens of an icon. Hillwood founder Marjorie Merriweather Post was a prominent tastemaker during the era known as the Roaring Twenties. One hundred years later, Hillwood celebrates Post's effect on the period—her impeccable attire, impressive art collection, and sumptuous design that made her one of the most influential women of the 1920s. This was a seminal decade for Post, as she developed into the icon we know her as today—a collector, philanthropist, humanitarian, and businesswoman, determined to do good and use her means to benefit others. The decorative objects and glamorous gowns on display in this exhibition reveal a legendary lifestyle and the range of art and style that embodied the essence of the Roaring Twenties. From globally influenced pieces to her splendid apparel for events and philanthropic fundraisers to her residences and furnishings, these items from Post's incredible life will demonstrate the allure, excitement, and international nature of this remarkable decade.

For your reference, the [exhibition label text](#) is now available on the volunteer website. Visit the [exhibition page](#) on Hillwood's website to learn more and join us on June 14 for a virtual volunteer lecture with Megan Martinelli, exhibition curator.



*Evening Dress, Thurn, New York, USA,
1919-1932, tulle, silk crêpe, lace (48.48),*

photo: Edward Owen

Kristine Mays: Rich Soil

Opening June 26, 2021

Hillwood is thrilled to welcome *Kristine Mays: Rich Soil*, opening in the gardens at Hillwood on June 26, 2021. Mays breathes life into wire, transforming an industrial product into fascinating and moving works of art. Springing to life throughout the 13 acres of formal gardens, 29 life-size, three dimensional sculptures will surprise visitors as they dance in the garden beds, bursting forth from the plant life. Marjorie Post maintained a lifelong love of dance, often hosting dances at Hillwood and remaining a dedicated patron of ballet organizations. It is fitting that *Rich Soil* finds a home at Hillwood, continuing this connection to bodily movement and expression. Mays's work explores the dance between life and death, as the pieces interact with the land and capture the gesture of the human form. Explore these figures as they transform the grounds for the second ever installation of art in the gardens.

Learn more about the exhibition in Rebecca Tilles' article *Kristine Mays: Rich Soil: Upcoming Exhibition of Sculpture in the Gardens at Hillwood* and join us on June 28 for a virtual volunteer lecture with Rebecca Tilles, exhibition curator.

Conversation with Kristine Mays on the Lawn

June 30 (5:30 p.m.)

Enjoy a relaxing summer evening in Hillwood's spectacular gardens and join Kristine Mays, contemporary artist, and Rebecca Tilles, Hillwood curator, for a conversation about *Kristine Mays: Rich Soil*. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs from home and enjoy a physically distanced picnic on Hillwood's expansive Lunar Lawn. [Click here to learn more or purchase tickets for the program.](#)



Rich Soil at Filoli Historic House & Gardens

MUSEUM SHOP SPOTLIGHT

Summer 2021 is bringing so many opportunities to try out new vendors and exciting merchandise stories as visitors come to see Hillwood's lineup of amazing exhibitions, engaging programs, and the stunning gardens. [Click here to discover the latest finds currently available in the museum shop.](#)

How to Shop

The museum shop expanded their store hours, and are now open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. To shop online, visit <https://store.hillwoodmuseum.org/discount/Volunteer21> and use your discount code of Volunteer21.



The unique wall art creations by Louise's Daughter are colorful, dancing figures of wood and paint.

BENTLEY PROJECT UPDATE: DIGITIZING THE POST FAMILY PAPERS

In fall 2020, Hillwood's Archives and Special Collections launched a new phase of one of our Digital Initiatives projects – the Bentley Project – as a remote volunteer opportunity. Inspired by projects like the National Archives' "Citizen Archivist" and the Smithsonian's Transcription Center, remote metadata volunteers (RMVs) have assisted with the transcription and cataloging of digitized copies of The Post Family Papers, specifically Marjorie Merriweather Post's series. The collection is originally held by the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan, but is being digitized by Hillwood to more easily facilitate our own research into our collections and founder.

[Learn more about how the digitization process is conducted, what the metadata volunteer team has accomplished so far, and how interested volunteers can participate in the program.](#)

HORTICULTURE NEWS

Dacha/Vista Bed Renovation and Visiting Cicadas

Led by the example set by Marjorie Merriweather Post, the horticulture staff always looks to maintain the grounds to the level set by our founder. This year that meant continuing the renovations to the beds between the Dacha and the Vista Terrace. Plant choices were made by considering the continuity from one bed to another, but who can resist adding a touch of variation! Then, there was the cicadas to consider!

[Click here for more information on this newly renovated area of the garden.](#)



Gardener Matt Boyle netting dogwoods

In the Gardens

What a difference a month makes! The recent heat, humidity, and dry conditions quickly ushered in the summer season this year. Cool season flowers have faded as roses, hydrangeas, and warm season annuals have taken over the show delighting garden visitors.

Please enjoy a few recent photos from the gardens this past week captured by Drew Asbury, horticulturist and volunteer manager.



*Orange marmalade lily, *Lilium martagon*, in the cutting garden*

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMING

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

Virtual Volunteer Lecture: *Roaring Twenties*

Monday, June 14 (10:30 a.m.)

Join Megan Martinelli, assistant curator of apparel and jewelry, for an overview of Hillwood's much-anticipated exhibition *Roaring Twenties: The Life of Style of Marjorie Merriweather Post*, on view in the Adirondack building June 12 through January 9, 2022. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed to all volunteers closer to the event date. For your reference, the [exhibition label text](#) is now available on the volunteer website.

Hillwood Huddle

Wednesday, June 23 & Tuesday, July 13 (3 p.m.)

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.

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

June 23 Huddle

July 13 Huddle

Virtual Volunteer Lecture: *Rich Soil*

Monday, June 28 (1:30 p.m.)

Join Rebecca Tilles, associate curator of 18th century French & western European fine and decorative arts, for an overview of *Kristine Mays: Rich Soil*, an innovative exhibition on view in the gardens June 26 through January 9, 2022. All volunteers are invited to attend. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed to all volunteers closer to the event date.

STAFF LECTURES

Shared below you will find upcoming virtual lectures with Hillwood staff that may be of interest to volunteers.

The French Porcelain Society

***Marjorie Merriweather Post and the Role and Influence of French & Company* by Rebecca Tilles**
June 12 & 13

The French Porcelain Society is delighted to announce a two-day webinar on selling antique ceramics in the pre-digital age from 1850 to 2000. This symposium is free and open to all, but donations are appreciated. [Click here to learn more about the program.](#)

Society for the History of Collection

***Marjorie Merriweather Post's Hillwood and the Vision from a Private Collection* by Rebecca Tilles**

June 18 & 19

Organized by the Society for the History of Collecting, *The Evolving House Museum: Art Collectors and Their Residences, Then and Now* online symposium explores a variety of themes relating to art collectors as founders of house museums in the United States and elsewhere. Registration is free. [Click here to register for the program.](#)

Association for the Study of Jewelry and the Related Arts Conference

***From Custom Cartier to Collecting: The Spectacular Jewelry Collection of Marjorie Merriweather Post* by Megan Martinelli**

June 26 & 27

This lecture will explore Marjorie Merriweather Post's collection of fine jewelry acquired over a lifetime of a passion for distinctive craftsmanship. Particular examples from the collection will highlight Post's studious approach to gemstones and history. Conference fee \$155. [Click here to learn more about the program.](#)

NEW ONLINE CONTENT

Missed a lecture? Be sure to visit the [volunteer website](#) and catch up on the newest online content, including new videos now available on the "Lecture Video Archives" page

- May 7: *Floral Design How-To: Celebrate Beauty*
 - May 13: *Ravishing: The Rose in Fashion*
 - May 25: *Virtual Pollinator-friendly Container Garden How-To*
 - May 26: *Livestream Discussion with Artist Vladimir Kanevsky*
-

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

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

Learn more about Hillwood's current visitor offerings or book an upcoming visit. 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 >](#)



You are receiving this email because you have opted into our email program. If you no longer wish to receive our emails click on the Unsubscribe link in this email.

Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens 4155 Linnean Ave NW Washington, DC 20008 www.hillwoodmuseum.org