



Please enjoy reading this month's volunteer email and learn more about the recent renaming of the visitor center, the Starry Night gala, the two grand pianos on view in the mansion, and more!

NOVEMBER 2021 SCHEDULE

The November 2021 schedule is now open to all interpretation volunteers in Volgistics. Please log in to your [Volgistics account](#) to schedule your shifts.

[Log into Volgistics](#)

VISITOR CENTER NAMING

Hillwood recently named the visitor center in honor of Ellen MacNeille Charles, board president emerita and granddaughter of Marjorie Merriweather Post, on September 27. An excerpt from executive director Kate Market's remarks are below:

The entire staff understands that the very welcoming culture that exists here emanates from Ellen's leadership, the culture that she fostered at the board level, and the requirement that the staff uphold Marjorie Post's high standards for graciousness, understanding and humanity, as well as her very high standards for how we maintain the art collection, the mansion, and the gardens. We delight in endeavoring to live up to these high standards because they have been embodied by those who have gone before us, and Ellen has led the way.

Ellen, we are all thrilled that the visitor center will carry your name in recognition of everything you have done for Hillwood, your own generosity of spirit and your gracious inclusion of us all to participate in making your grandmother's gift a beacon, an oasis, and a place where all are welcome.

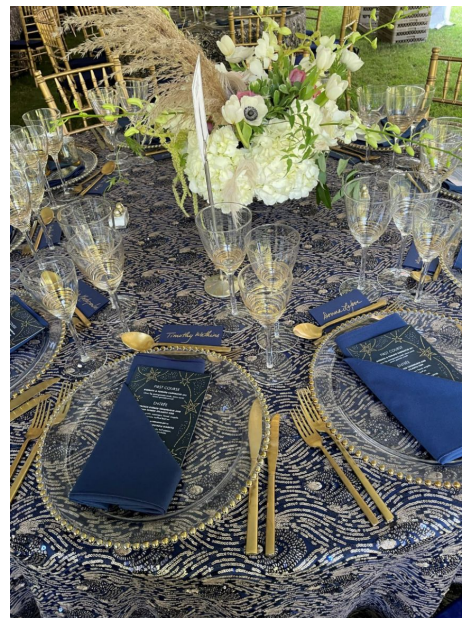


Ellen MacNeille Charles addressing attendees during the September 27 renaming event

GUESTS GATHER FOR THE STARRY NIGHT GALA

On Tuesday, September 28, Hillwood was delighted to welcome guests to the *Starry Night Gala*. After so long apart, it was a true pleasure to see so many of Hillwood's dearest friends and to meet new ones. The long anticipated gala celebrated the special exhibition *Roaring Twenties: The Life and Style of Marjorie Merriweather Post* and featured a cocktail reception in the C.W. Post Courtyard followed by a formal dinner on the Lunar Lawn. The 1920s-inspired attire was encouraged at this black tie affair and guests arrived in sequins, feathers, and all sorts of fabulous designs.

For images from the glamorous evening and the volunteers who helped make the night a success, [click here to read the article](#).



Gala tables inspired by the Starry Night dress

TWO NEW ACQUISITIONS OF CONTEMPORARY ART AT HILLWOOD

Hillwood recently acquired two pieces of contemporary art. Hillwood's first acquisition of garden sculpture, Kristine Mays's *Soon and Very Soon #21*, represents the guardian to the current exhibition *Kristine Mays: Rich Soil* and sets the tone for discoveries in the garden and storytelling. Hillwood also acquired a piece of contemporary ceramics for the collection: Roberto Lugo's covered vase, entitled *Good Trouble*, which will be featured in the upcoming exhibition *Luxury of Clay: Porcelain Past and Present*.

[Click here to learn more about these two extraordinary additions to Hillwood's collection.](#)



Good Trouble, Philadelphia, 2020, Roberto Lugo (American, born 1981), glazed ceramic and enamel paint, 17 x 11.5 x 11.5 in., museum purchase, 2021 (2021.4.1-2), photo courtesy of Wexler Gallery

HILLWOOD'S GRAND PIANOS

Earlier this year, a specialist from Steinway & Sons conserved and tuned Marjorie Post's two grand pianos in the Pavilion and French drawing room. Pianos have been a key piece of furnishing in the homes of the elite in the nineteenth century Western Society. Hillwood's pianos were originally bought for the Burden Mansion, Marjorie Post's residence from 1915-1925, and followed Post in most of her homes until she settled in Washington, D.C.

[Click here to learn more about Hillwood's unique instruments on view in the mansion.](#)



Ballroom in Post's New York Mansion (Burden Mansion). Bentley Library, Post Family Papers, Box 54, Album, "House 2 East 92nd Street 1915-1922"

MUSEUM SHOP SPOTLIGHT

Each fall, the museum shop excitedly debuts new products and this year we are introducing many wonderful, new items. Stop by the museum shop or visit our new online store to treat yourself or get an early start on tackling your holiday shopping.

[Click here to view the latest staff picks and upcoming events for the museum shop.](#)



Known for their sophisticated and vibrant color combinations, Powder UK gloves and scarves will brighten any winter wear.

FILMS OF *RICH SOIL*-INSPIRED DANCE IN THE GARDENS

The site-specific dance Hillwood and Dance Place co-commissioned is now available on Hillwood's YouTube as both a [2-minute trailer](#) and a [complete film](#) (40 minutes). The performance, titled *Ceremony*, was inspired by *Kristine Mays: Rich Soil* and the work traversed Hillwood's gardens with five unique dances specific to the sculptures and setting of each garden. The performance engaged nearly 500 patrons when it premiered at Hillwood July 21-25. You can also revisit the [34-minute video](#) of *Beauty*, which the Dance Institute of Washington performed on the Lunar Lawn stage for 125 visitors on August 25. We are delighted to keep engaging with these temporal works into the future.

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

Collections and Research Center Garden Update

Phase two of the Collections and Research Center garden is coming together. Soils were remediated, hardscape installed, and now the planting plan is being realized. This garden is a tangible reminder of Hillwood's commitment to the environment and sustainable gardening, and our hope is the new space will inspire visitors to try some of these techniques in their own yards.

[Click here to see how this exciting project has evolved.](#)

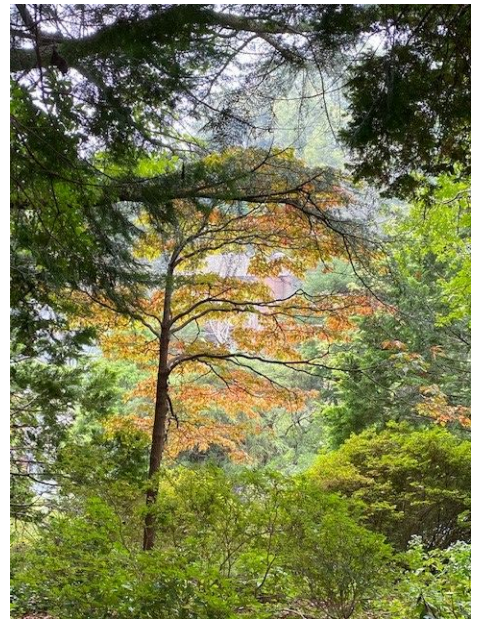


The Collections and Research Center garden as of October 6

In the Gardens

A new season has officially arrived in the gardens as the colors of summer are replaced with the shades of fall. Chrysanthemums, late season perennials, prolific berries, and glimpses of early fall color all mark the changing seasons.

Please enjoy a few recent photos captured by Drew Asbury, horticulturist and volunteer manager.



A dogwood tree with early fall color near the gate

HILLWOOD'S INFECTIOUS DISEASE SAFETY GUIDELINES

With cold and flu season just around the corner, please carefully review and follow the below guidelines in place at Hillwood to help protect visitors, staff, and your fellow volunteers.

Wearing a Mask

Thank you for helping us lead by example for our visitors by wearing your mask indoors. As a reminder, masks are required in all indoor spaces, both public and private, at all times, regardless of vaccination status. If you need a break, please step outside of the visitor center or mansion to remove your mask.

Staying Home When Ill

Many times, with the best of intentions, volunteers report for their shift at Hillwood even though they feel ill. It is critical that volunteers stay home while they are ill and/or experiencing the following symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. If you need to cancel a scheduled shift, please notify your direct supervisor. Volunteers who report to Hillwood ill will be sent home to rest and recovery in accordance with these health guidelines.

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, Maria Matlock, 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

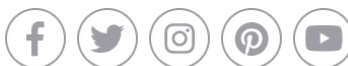
Learn more about Hillwood's current visitor offerings or book an upcoming visit. Don't forget to stay up-to-date on Hillwood's virtual programming through the Events and Programs page.

[Visit >](#)

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