

Please enjoy reading this month's volunteer email and learn more about upcoming volunteer programs, Hillwood's winter coat drive, the rug on view in the mansion dining room, a new volunteer role in Horticulture, and more!

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## DECEMBER 2021 SCHEDULE

The December 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](#)

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## VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Celebrate the holiday season with Hillwood during these upcoming volunteer programs:

### **Volunteer Holiday Wreath Workshop (in-person)**

**December 7, 8, 9 & 10 (10:30 a.m.)**

Be inspired and create your own unique holiday wreath of wintery greens under the guidance of gardener Matt Boyle during this one-hour in-person workshop. Space is limited to 10 volunteers per workshop. The deadline for signing up is Monday, November 29. Dress warmly as the in-person workshop will take place outdoors. Cost is \$35.

Please use the links below to register for a workshop:

- [December 7 Workshop](#)
- [December 8 Workshop](#)
- [December 9 Workshop](#)
- [December 10 Workshop](#)

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### **Virtual Volunteer Holiday Tour**

**December 8 (1 p.m.)**

Mark your calendars and join Ami Wilber, Hillwood's floral and event décor designer, on an one-hour virtual tour of the mansion's holiday display. All volunteers are invited to attend and no registration is required. A Zoom link will be emailed to all volunteers shortly before the program.

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## WINTER COAT DRIVE

### November 16-December 16, 2021

We are excited to announce that Hillwood will support [One Warm Coat](#) with a winter coat drive beginning Tuesday, November 16 through Thursday, December 16. Hillwood will collect and deliver donated items to [Thrive DC](#), whose mission is to prevent and end homelessness in D.C.

We are collecting new and gently used winter coats, scarves, winter hats, and gloves. All staff and volunteers are invited to make a difference in our local community by donating to the drive.

### Collection Sites

The collection sites will be unattended. There will be paper receipts available at each location site for volunteers and staff to fill out. There will be three collection sites on the estate:

- **Volunteer lounge**, located on the second floor of the mansion
- **Administration building**, just inside the main entrance to the left
- **Greenhouse horticulture offices**, just inside the office doors across from the breakroom on the lower level

### Coat Drive Collection Hours

Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The drive begins November 16 at 9 a.m. and ends December 16 at 12 p.m.

### Safety Guidelines

The coat collection bins are indoors near staff offices, so please wear a mask and maintain 6 feet from others when you are making your donation. Please stay home if you are sick. If you need assistance making your donation, please contact Meredith DeSantis at the information below.

### Questions?

Please feel free to contact Meredith DeSantis, head of visitor services, at [mdesantis@hillwoodmuseum.org](mailto:mdesantis@hillwoodmuseum.org).

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## PUBLIC LECTURE: BEFORE HILLWOOD: A HISTORY OF THIS LAND

### November 16 (6:30 p.m.)

Join us for the ninth annual [Frederick J. Fisher lecture](#), which will be held with an in-person audience in the visitor center theater and livestreamed via Zoom on Tuesday, November 16. In-person attendees can connect with fellow volunteers, members, and speakers before the talk at a reception honoring Frederick J. Fisher, who served as Hillwood's executive director from 1990 to 2010.

The program will include new research and explore the history and legacy of those who have cared for the land on which Hillwood now sits, from Indigenous communities, to the Peirce family and the people

they enslaved, the Erwins from whom Marjorie Post purchased Hillwood, and Marjorie Post and her staff. Join Hillwood's chief curator Dr. Wilfried Zeisler and Dr. Elizabeth Rule for this fascinating evening. Rule is an enrolled citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, and an Assistant Professor of Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies at American University. She is also currently a MIT Indigenous Communities Fellow and the creator of the [Guide to Indigenous DC](#) mobile application.

Please use the links below to purchase tickets:

- [In-Person](#): \$22, \$12 member
- [Livestream](#): \$10, free for members

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## AN IMPERIAL RUG WOVEN IN FRANCE BY BRAQUENIÉ

The 18<sup>th</sup> century style rug on view in the mansion dining room draws your attention both for its size, measuring in at 489 x 240 inches, and striking design of rose red and cream color scheme adorned with intricate décor of flower bouquets as well as garlands and swags of roses, ribbons, clusters of musical instruments, parrots and other birds. Selected by Marjorie Merriweather Post in 1956, the rug matches the 18<sup>th</sup> century French inspired style of the room. Although the history of Hillwood's rug can't be traced to its original owner, the curatorial team have identified the manufacturer.



*Hillwood's Rug in the Dining Room (detail)  
(acc. no. 42.1)*

[Learn more about this stunning piece of tapestry on view at Hillwood and why it's been referred to as "...without a doubt one of the finest large Aubusson rugs in existence..."](#)

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## SUSTAINABILITY AT HOME

The Hillwood Environmental Action Team (HEAT) is making a real and lasting difference in our drive to be more sustainable. The work that we do is as applicable at home, as it is here. This article will dive into a few things that you can do outside of Hillwood that will help improve our environment and protect our communities.

[Learn more about how you can make an impact by conserving water, recycling coffee grounds, switching to renewable technologies, and leaving the leaves while gardening this fall.](#)



*Main compost generaton area at the  
souther end of the property*

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## MUSEUM SHOP SPOTLIGHT

The gift-giving season has officially arrived and the museum shop is ready for whatever you need. We are stocked up with exciting new items for you to keep or to gift. Be sure to stop by the museum shop or visit our new online store to start your holiday shopping.

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



*This Christmas cracker set, by Two's Company, includes three hot chocolate bombes.*

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## SAVE THE DATE: VALENTINE'S DAY 2022

Please mark your calendars for Monday, February 14 for the return of Hillwood's annual Valentine's Day fundraising benefit event. *Through the Fire* will celebrate the opening of the stunning special exhibition *The Luxury of Clay: Porcelain Past and Present* with an exclusive preview before it opens to the public. Typically a sold-out affair, Hillwood's Valentine's Day benefit is an unforgettable evening with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, art, and silent auction. [Click here to learn more.](#)

The recent *Starry Night Gala* was certainly a night to remember! [Please enjoy these images](#) from the evening photographed by Tony Powell.

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## STAFF UPDATE

It is bittersweet news to share visitor services associate Brauna Yates's last day with Hillwood is Saturday, November 20. Many of you know Brauna from her stellar customer service at the front desk in the visitor center. Her gracious and friendly demeanor has been a welcome addition to the Hillwood experience since July 2017. Brauna is embarking on a new career path and has accepted a position with Community of Hope's Permanent Supported Housing Program as a Housing Stability Case Manager. Please join us in congratulating Brauna on this exciting new adventure.

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## HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

## New Role: Woodland Stewardship Volunteer

This upcoming winter, the horticulture department is seeking volunteers interested in helping control invasive plants in Hillwood's natural lands. The volunteer woodland stewardship team will meet one morning each week (the exact day of the week changing from week to week) from 8-10 a.m. starting in mid-December. Controlling invasive plants is no easy task, but every invasive plant removed allows for the opportunity for a native plant to take its rightful place. We are excited to join forces with our volunteers to help develop this new team focused on being better stewards of the environment.

[Click here to learn more about this exciting volunteer opportunity.](#)

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*View of hillside behind the Adirondack building smothered in English ivy*

## Fall Planting of Spring Bulbs

In a time of preparing for winter slumber, bulbs are the hope for next year's beautiful spring. Thousands of bulbs are being planted now at Hillwood. Most will go to the display beds, but some will find new homes in the permanent gardens. Five thousand tulips go to the Lunar Lawn bed edge alone. There are also appropriate bulbs available for some of the difficult gardening situations that many find at their own homes.

[Click here to learn more about Hillwood's bulbs and installation process along with helpful tips for your own garden.](#)

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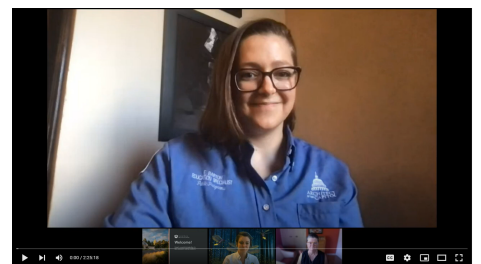
*Layout in the Lunar Lawn beds*

## "What's Bugging You" Program Recording

In mid-September, the Horticulture Consortium of the Greater Washington Area hosted a virtual appreciation program to recognize and celebrate the contributions of volunteers to our local public gardens. Hillwood is just one of a dozen gardens that work together to create this entertaining and educational annual event. This year's program, "What's Bugging You," consisted of two speakers and a short update from each of the participating gardens. Dr. Holly Walker presented "Recognizing Good Bugs in Your Garden" and Dr. Sebastian Alejandro Echeverri presented "All About Spiders: From Fear to Fascination."

[Click here to watch the recording of this year's event.](#)

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*Click above to watch the recording of "What's Bugging You"*

## In the Gardens

Mums, mums, and more mums have joined forces with the changing colors of autumn to mark the start of a new season while enlivening every corner of the gardens with shades of yellow, orange, red, and purple.

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



*Chrysanthemum 'Megumi' trained as 5' topiaries at the visitor center*

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## 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.

- October 5 [Ethereal Frocks and Two Perfectly Matched Strings of Pearls](#) by Megan Martinelli
- October 14 [Harlem Renaissance: Yesterday and Today](#) by Robert G. O'Meally
- October 21 [The Jazz Age: American Style in the 1920s](#) by Stephen Harrison
- October 26 [Paris Fashion in the 1920s](#) by Valerie Steele

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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, Maria Matlock, 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

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 >](#)

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HILLWOOD  
ESTATE, MUSEUM & GARDENS



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