

Please enjoy reading this month's volunteer email and learn more about how you can celebrate the holidays with Hillwood, important dates for next year, new staff joining the Hillwood team, and more!

JANUARY 2022 SCHEDULE

The January 2022 schedule is now open to all interpretation volunteers in Volgistics. Please log in to your [Volgistics account](#) to schedule your shifts.

[Log into Volgistics](#)

HILLWOOD HOLIDAY CHEER

While we are eagerly looking ahead to starting a new year together and hopefully one step closer to returning to “normal,” we wanted to take this moment to celebrate all we have accomplished this past year. Thank you for your support during another challenging year: we have seen you showing up for Hillwood by volunteering on-site and virtually, visiting Hillwood with guests, attending in-person and online programs, shopping at the museum store, dining at the café, and giving generously through memberships. It means a great deal you have weathered this storm with us, and as a small token of our appreciation, we have gathered some holiday cheer below to brighten your Decembers.

Enjoy the holiday décor

Earlier this week, Ami Wilber, Hillwood's floral and event décor designer, lead a 30-minute virtual tour of the mansion's holiday displays. To learn more about these festive decorations, watch the [December 8 tour recording](#) and read Ami's article detailing the [Jazzy, Jolly Holiday décor](#) now on view through January 9, 2022.



French drawing room tree

Learn how Marjorie Post celebrated the holidays

Marjorie Merriweather Post often spent the holiday season at Mar-A-Lago. Photographs in Hillwood's archives document holiday decorations at Mar-A-Lago, Palm Beach and Tregaron, Washington D.C. in the 1940s, as well as at the American Embassy in Brussels, Belgium in 1938. Post also documented the décor on board the *Sea Cloud* in 1947, her "first Christmas on the ship" as she wrote in her scrapbook. Discover more about Post celebrated the holidays in Dr. Wilfried Zeisler's article [A Holiday Season with Marjorie Merriweather Post](#).



Marjorie Post and family on board the Sea Cloud for the holiday, 1947, Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens Archives and Special Collections

Treat yourself at the museum shop

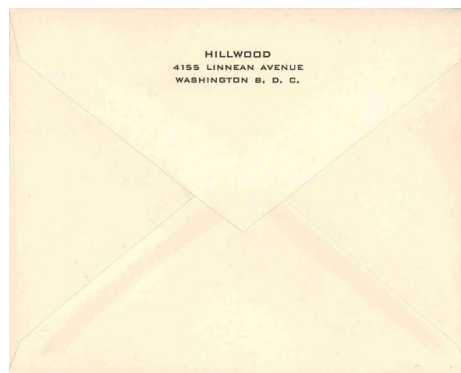
Volunteers receives a 30% discount off all non-sale items in the museum shop during the month of December; this is an additional 10% above the usual discount! Discounts do not apply to sale merchandise. While new merchandise is going out daily, we recommend shopping early to get the best selection as items have begun selling out. As usual, this does not combine with any other discounts. [Click here to shop at our online store](#) and use your discount code of VOLUNTEERHOLIDAY30.



Volunteers received 30% discount off all non-sale items in the museum shop in December

Be on the lookout for a Hillwood gift

Pulling inspiration from Marjorie Post's generous spirit, a thank you gift was mailed to Hillwood volunteers. This modest token of our sincere gratitude should arrive via the US Postal Service in mid to late December.



Be on the lookout for a Hillwood gift arriving via the US Postal Service

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: IMPORTANT DATES

Be sure to mark your calendars for these important upcoming dates in the new year.

Exhibition Closing Dates: January 9, 2022

Please note *Roaring Twenties: The Life and Style of Marjorie Merriweather Post* and *Kristine Mays: Rich Soil* close to the public on January 9, 2022.

Upcoming Closure: January 10-31, 2022

Hillwood will close to the public from January 10-31 to clean and keep the mansion maintained to the pristine standards for which it is known. Hillwood will reopen to the public on Tuesday, February 1.

Virtual Volunteer Business Meeting: January 27, 2022 (10 a.m.)

Hillwood's annual Volunteer Business Meeting will be offered virtually via Zoom on **Thursday, January 27, 2022 (10 a.m.)**. The meeting will provide volunteers with the opportunity to learn about Hillwood's strategic plan, important updates, and major projects for the year ahead. The meeting is scheduled to run about 1 hour and 20 minutes and will include time for volunteers to submit questions via the Q&A feature.

All volunteers are encouraged to attend and no advance registration is needed. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed closer to the program date. The business meeting will be recorded and the video link shared via email and posted on the volunteer website.

Upcoming Exhibition: February 19, 2022

Hillwood's new exhibition *The Luxury of Clay: Porcelain Past and Present*, on view in the Dacha, opens to the public on February 19, 2022. Hillwood founder Marjorie Merriweather Post valued porcelain objects for their beauty, exquisite design, and historic associations. While most were crafted for specific uses, these items are valued objects in their own right. Featuring more than 125 objects, the exhibition will trace the remarkable development of porcelain, from its origins in 9th-century China to its discovery in Europe in the early 18th century, leading to contemporary artistic interpretations of this material.

2022 Volunteer Continuing Education

Hillwood's volunteer management team is planning continuing education for volunteers in 2022, including new research currently being conducted by staff on Hillwood's history and the societal norms during Marjorie Post's life. Additional information is forthcoming.

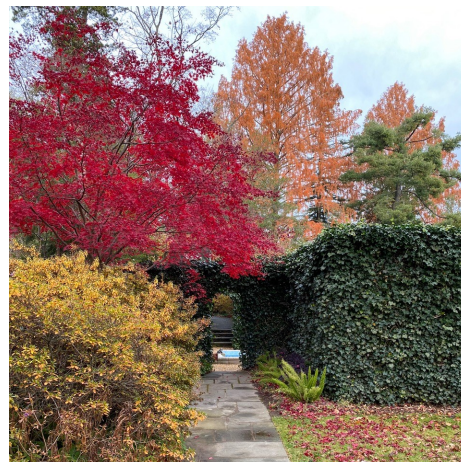
GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Give the gift of Hillwood this holiday season and share this place of beauty, inspiration, and rejuvenation throughout the year ahead. To send a gift membership, please contact Hillwood Membership at 202.243.3939.

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

In the Gardens

The recent frosty mornings and freezing temperatures have intensified the remaining remnants of fall color throughout the gardens, a sure sign that winter is quickly approaching! Please enjoy a few recent photos of the gardens and greenhouses captured by Drew Asbury, horticulturist and volunteer manager.



Brilliant fall color on azaleas, maples, and dawn redwoods at the French Parterre

Holiday Wreath Workshops

A lot of holiday cheer was spread around Hillwood this past week as nearly 25 volunteers participated in our annual volunteer wreath workshops. Each volunteer was supplied with a variety of wintry greens, eucalyptus, pinecones, and ribbons to create their very own, unique creation!



Floral volunteer Carlyne Starek alongside gardener and workshop host, Matt Boyle.

STAFF UPDATE

Hillwood has been fortunate in finding exemplarily professionals to add to our growing staff. Please join us in welcoming our newest members to the team:

- Uchenna Nwoye, Museum Shop Sales Associate
- Sulay Khin, Public Programs Manager
- Abdoulaye Diaite, Facilities Tech
- Dan McGovern, Gardener
- Magdy Ziyadah, Cataloguer
- Carissa Chinnery, Security Museum Assistant
- Mary Cotter, Security Museum Assistant
- Muna Khedir, Security Museum Assistant

- Rusudan Kobaladze, Security Museum Assistant
 - Hania Lenderking, Security Museum Assistant
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WINTER COAT DRIVE

November 16-December 16, 2021

A friendly reminder that Hillwood's winter coat drive in partnership with [One Warm Coat](#) is running now through Thursday, December 16. Hillwood will collect and deliver donated items to [Thrive DC](#), whose mission is to prevent and end homelessness in DC. All volunteers are invited to make a difference in our local community by donating to the drive.

Collection Sites

We are collecting new and gently used winter coats, scarves, winter hats, and gloves. The collection sites will be unattended. There will be paper receipts available at each location site for volunteers 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.

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.

- November 16: [Before Hillwood: A History of This Land](#)
 - December 8: [Virtual Volunteer Holiday Tour](#)
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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.

-The Volunteer Support Team

Lisa Leyh, Drew Asbury, Maria Matlock, and Samantha Hernandez

HILLWOOD AT HOME

Enjoy Hillwood through our comprehensive digital offerings, including the online collections, educational video library, mobile app, and virtual programs.

[Explore >](#)

PLAN YOUR VISIT

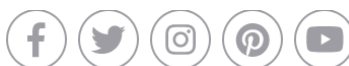
Learn more about Hillwood's current visitor offerings, book an upcoming visit, and stay up-to-date on Hillwood's events and programs.

[Visit >](#)

STAY CONNECTED

Visit 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.

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