



Please enjoy reading this month's volunteer newsletter featuring news and updates from the Hillwood staff.

JANUARY 2023 SCHEDULE

The January 2023 schedule is now open to all interpretation volunteers in Volgistics, complete with private tours and special events. Please log in to your [Volgistics account](#) to schedule your shifts. If you have any changes or questions regarding the volunteer schedule, please continue to contact volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org. Thank you.

[Log into Volgistics](#)

Please Note: Microsoft ended support for its Internet Explorer web browser on June 15, 2022. Volgistics no longer supports Internet Explorer. If you are a windows user using Internet Explorer, please switch your internet browser to Microsoft Edge, Firefox, Chrome, or Safari.

HOLIDAY WISHES

The holidays are a time for us all to relax, reflect, and think ahead to the future. As we reflect on this past year at Hillwood, we are incredibly thankful for your help in making it an overwhelming success. In our first full year since re-opening to the public and amidst various changes, adjustments, and our highest visitor attendance to-date at **91,344 guests**, we are thankful for your continued support of Hillwood. Whether through volunteering on-site, sharing Hillwood with friends and family, attending in-person and virtual programs, or giving generously through memberships, Hillwood would not be the same without our fantastic volunteers. We wish you a wonderful holiday season filled with joy and are eagerly looking forward to what 2023 will bring!

AAM REACCREDITATION UPDATE

Hillwood has been notified that we have received reaccreditation from the American Alliance of Museums. Recognized as the field's gold standard for museum excellence for over 50 years,

accreditation signifies a museum's quality and credibility to the entire museum community, to governments and outside agencies, and to the museum-going public.

To earn accreditation, Hillwood submitted a self-study questionnaire and key operational documents for evaluation, then had a site visit by a two-person team of peer reviewers in August. They wrote a report for the Accreditation Commission, which they submitted shortly afterwards. The Commission used these materials and its collective expertise to determine whether to grant accreditation. Through this process, Hillwood demonstrated that we meet high standards and best practices, and that we are an educational entity and an appropriate steward of the collections and resources that we hold in the public trust.

Many thanks to everyone who met with the peer reviewers, and to staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to uphold the high standards that accreditation represents, and that Marjorie Merriweather Post established for us all when she created Hillwood.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAY DÉCOR WITH *HAUTE HOLIDAYS*

Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer, drew details from the special exhibition *Grace of Monaco: Princess in Dior* to inspire four trees in the mansion. For the visitor center tree, this was Hillwood's first time welcoming a local interior designer to design, create, and decorate a tree as part of Hillwood's annual holiday displays. Hillwood founder Marjorie Merriweather Post's life inspired the visitor center tree, designed by Quince Hill-Mattauszek, principal designer and owner of Studio Q Designs.

[Click here to read more about this year's holiday display, *Haute Holidays*.](#)



Entry hall tree.

TREAT YOURSELF TO DECEMBER DISCOUNTS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Museum Shop | Volunteers receive an extra 10% discount on all non-sale items in the museum shop during the month of December, for a total discount of 30%. With new merchandise going out daily, treat yourself or your loved ones to something special from the museum shop. Be sure to get in your shopping early to get the best selection of items! Note that the discount does not combine with other discounts or apply to sale items. [Click here to shop at the online store and use your discount code of VOLUNTEERHOLIDAY30.](#)

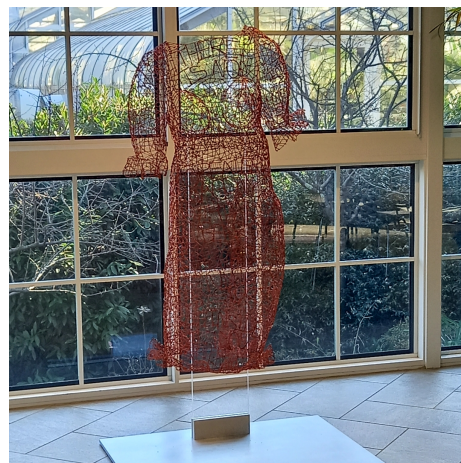
New, Upgraded & Gift Memberships | During December, we are offering Hillwood volunteers a 25% discount on new memberships and on membership upgrades at the Individual level through the Donor

level. This discount will also apply to gift memberships you purchase for friends and relatives this month also for the Individual level though the Donor level. [To apply this discount, please complete and return this membership form by December 31.](#) You can also call the Hillwood Membership number at 202.243.3939 or use the instructions on the form to mail it back to Hillwood.

SCULPTURE INSTALLATION – VISITOR CENTER CONSERVATORY

Hillwood's 2021 acquisition *Soon and Very Soon #21*, a sculpture by artist Kristine Mays, now welcomes guests as they enter the visitor center conservatory.

[Click here to learn what Rachel Bournique, exhibitions and collections project manager, has to say about one of Hillwood's latest acquisitions.](#)



Soon and Very Soon #21 installed in the conservatory.

CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER

This holiday season, join Hillwood in supporting our community with a fundraiser for [Capital Area Food Bank](#). Nearly half a million people in the D.C. region are facing hunger and food insecurity. For every dollar we raise, Capital Area Food Bank can provide two healthy meals.

Hillwood's collective goal is to raise \$2,500 for this important cause. The donation period is open from now until the end of the year, December 31, 2022. Please consider donating if you can and be sure to share our fundraising page with friends and family.

[Click here for the direct link to Hillwood's fundraising page.](#)

ASK AN ARCHIVIST

Each month via the volunteer newsletter, volunteers are invited to submit questions about Hillwood and Marjorie Post to Jason Speck, head of archives and special collections, for a new feature "Ask an Archivist." Marshalling the impressive resources of rare and unique materials housed in Hillwood's Collections and Research Center, Jason will select one question to answer and share in the volunteer newsletter each month.

This month's question: How and when was the Merriweather Post Pavilion named for Marjorie Post?

This month's answer: [Read Jason's response and learn more about Marjorie Post's connection to the Merriweather Post Pavilion.](#)

To submit a question for a future newsletter, [click here](#). To learn more about the new Collections and Research Center, visit [Hillwood's website](#).



Marjorie Post receiving a plaque from the NSO in honor of her 80th birthday.

HER ART'S DESIRE | FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Save the date! We hope you will join us for *Her Art's Desire*, Hillwood's annual Valentine's Day celebration on Tuesday, February 14 to celebrate the opening of the fabulous exhibition, *Determined Women: Collectors, Artists, and Designers at Hillwood*.

To learn more about *Her Art's Desire*, [click here](#).



Her Art's Desire logo.

HILLWOOD'S HOURS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Holiday Hours in December | Hillwood will close to the public at 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve (Saturday, December 24) and all day on Christmas Day (Sunday, December 25). The museum will re-open Tuesday, December 27 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars: January 2023 Closure | Hillwood will be open Sunday, January 1 through Sunday, January 8. The museum will close to the public from Monday, January 9 to Friday, February 3 for a deep-clean of the mansion and to update our exhibition spaces. Hillwood will re-open to the public on Saturday, February 4.

EXHIBITION UPDATES

Please note that *Grace of Monaco: Princess in Dior* closes to the public on January 8, 2023.

Hillwood's new exhibition *Determined Women: Collectors, Artists, and Designers at Hillwood*, on view in the dacha, opens to the public on February 18, 2023. Hillwood founder Marjorie Merriweather Post was an astute business executive, discerning collector, and committed philanthropist. As a strong woman in a male-dominated world, she greatly admired her predecessors—influential women who ran countries, inspired reforms, supported culture, and created art and design. This special exhibition will explore the innovating and intrepid collectors, artists, and designers within Hillwood's collection, those who set an example for Post and future women by making a place for themselves and overcoming obstacles through their determination to succeed.

UPSTANDER TRAINING

As ambassadors of Hillwood, our collective goal for volunteers and staff is to provide the best possible visitor experience. A frequent question often asked is how do we balance the culture of gracious hospitality while also standing up for ourselves or others if someone is disrespectful or oversteps boundaries? The below pre-recorded training video and handout were developed as a first step in helping equip volunteers and staff better balance being gracious in a difficult situation. These training resources aim to educate and build a foundation of understanding on DEAI, recognize bias in the workplace, and empower volunteers and staff to take proper steps for responding to those moments across campus. The training is rooted in the key component of Hillwood's mission, core values, and graciousness that Marjorie Post extended to all she welcomed to Hillwood.

How to access this training: As you watch the pre-recorded upstander training video, we encourage you to use the training handout below to make notes on thoughts, definitions, or ideas that are meaningful to you.

- Volunteer Training: [Being an Active Upstander](#) (47:08 minutes)
- [Training Handout](#)
- After completing the training, please share your feedback in this [brief survey](#)

Thank you in advance for taking the time to watch the recording and follow along on the training handout. We hope the resources shared in this training serve as a helpful introduction in thinking about how we can better balance being gracious in a difficult situation. Hillwood is committed to assisting volunteers and staff on this subject and we look forward to supporting and learning from one another as we embrace being upstanders.

STAFF UPDATE

Hillwood is happy to announce that Tyler Newcomer has been promoted to visitor services coordinator. Since joining Hillwood as a visitor services associate in July 2021, Tyler has been an integral member of the visitor services team, delivering exceptional customer service to guests while helping to welcome a record number of visitors. His attention to detail and mastery of Hillwood's operations has been

invaluable to the success of Hillwood's programs, school and girl scout visits, and general visit experience.

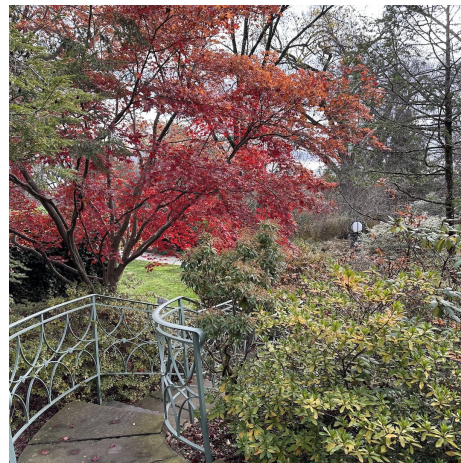
Please join us in congratulating Tyler on this well-deserved promotion!

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

In the Gardens

Lingering fall color, late-season flowers, festive holiday decorations, and an orchid-filled greenhouse delight visitors at nearly every turn in the gardens during this very dramatic change in the seasons.

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



A Japanese maple near the rose garden contributes to the final burst of fall color in the gardens.

Horticulture Volunteer Recruitment

The horticulture department is actively recruiting new volunteers to join our outdoor garden support role. Please help us spread the word to your friends, family, and colleagues. To learn more about this opportunity or to apply, please direct interested candidates to Hillwood's website or by sharing this link: [Outdoor Garden Support Volunteer](#). Feel free to reach out to Drew Asbury, dasbury@hillwoodmuseum.org, if you have any questions.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Please mark your calendars and join us for these upcoming volunteer programs.

Virtual Volunteer Lecture: Jewelry and Costumes Collection

December 12 (Monday), 6 p.m.

This virtual lecture, which is part of the 2022-2023 mansion docent training program, will provide an overview of the jewelry and costumes collections at Hillwood. A reminder with a Zoom link will be emailed to volunteers. The lecture will also be digitally recorded and made available on the volunteer website under "Lecture Videos."

Virtual Volunteer Lecture: Paintings & Portraiture

January 17 (Tuesday), 6 p.m.

This virtual lecture, which is part of the 2022-2023 mansion docent training program, will provide an overview of the paintings and portraiture collection at Hillwood. As we get closer to the lecture date, a Zoom link will be emailed to volunteers. The lecture will also be digitally recorded and made available on the volunteer website under "Lecture Videos."

Virtual Volunteer Lecture: Historic Objects and Contemporary Stories and Artists

January 23 (Monday), 6 p.m.

This virtual lecture, which is part of the 2022-2023 mansion docent training program, will provide an overview of historic objects and contemporary stories and artists in the collection. As we get closer to the lecture date, a Zoom link will be emailed to volunteers. The lecture will also be digitally recorded and made available on the volunteer website under "Lecture Videos."

Save the Date: Volunteer Business Meeting

January 25 (Wednesday), 10 a.m.

Hillwood's annual Volunteer Business Meeting will be offered virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, January 25, 2023 (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 Horticulture Events

All volunteers are cordially invited to attend two mornings of garden-inspired talks presented by the horticulture department. Programs will be presented virtually over Zoom. Details including the lineup of speakers and links to join the program will be coming soon!

- **Green Day of Horticulture** | February 6 (Monday), 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Day of Horticulture** | March 6 (Monday), 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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: [Being an Active Upstander](#)
 - December 5: [The Houses and Collections of Marjorie Merriweather Post: The Joy of It with Wilfried Zeisler](#)
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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, Marisa Gonzalez, Drew Asbury, 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.

[Connect >](#)



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