



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

FEBRUARY 2023 SCHEDULE

The February 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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Goodbye 2022, and hello to 2023! We are closing out this past year with many reasons to be as amazed and thankful as ever for our wonderful volunteer team. Throughout the many twists and turns that 2022 brought, you have constantly shown your dedication and commitment to Hillwood. The enthusiasm, flexibility, and determination you continually bring to your volunteer service helped us as we welcomed a record-breaking 98,739 visitors, continued to bring back in-person programming, introduced even more new and exciting ways for visitors to engage with Hillwood, and worked to build and strengthen the Hillwood community. During these first few weeks of the new year, as Hillwood is closed to the public, we hope you take some time to rest, recharge, and get ready to come back to an exciting year at Hillwood. We are eager to see you back in February and to see what 2023 will bring. Thank you for your continued support and for choosing to remain a part of the Hillwood community!

JANUARY CLOSURE

Hillwood closed to the public on Monday, January 9 for our annual deep-clean of the mansion and to update our exhibition spaces and will be closed until Friday, February 3. Hillwood will re-open to the public on Saturday, February 4.

2022 VISITATION RECAP

In 2022, Hillwood welcomed **98,739 on-site visitors**. This marks our highest attended year, surpassing our previous record of 85,982 visitors in 2017. We also continued to welcome a high number of virtual guests, with a total virtual attendance of 5,446. Thank you for continuing to support the visitor experience and helping us to remain flexible and responsive throughout the phases of our operations.

UPDATE TO CHAUFFEUSE DISPLAY IN MARJORIE POST'S BEDROOM

With the needs of our guests in mind, the two low chairs that were previously framing the fireplace in Marjorie Post's bedroom (catalog numbers [31.86](#) and [31.87](#)) have been moved to sit directly beneath the windows on the far side of the room. Adjusting the placement of these chairs will allow guests to still be able to view them while also allowing more flexibility and space for guests to walk in the accessible portion of the room

[Click here to see their new home.](#)



*Low Chair (Chauffeuse), One of a Two
(31.86)*

EXHIBITION UPDATES

Please note that *Grace of Monaco: Princess in Dior* closed 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.



Portrait of Princess Dashkova (51.66)

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.

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

CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK FUNDRAISER

Thank you to all who generously contributed to Hillwood's winter fundraiser in support of [Capital Area Food Bank](#), which ran throughout the month of December. At the end of the fundraising period, Hillwood was able to raise **\$2,052** for this important cause. For every dollar raised, Capital Area Food Bank can provide two healthy meals. We appreciate your help in making a difference in our local community.

STAFF UPDATE

Please join us in welcoming Katie McCarthy as the new Head of Adult Audiences in the Interpretation Department.

Katie comes to Hillwood from the School of Music at the University of Maryland, where she was the community engagement coordinator. She brings a rich background in managing performing arts programming and cultivating relationships with community partners and audiences. She is excited to share her energy and interest in applying her skills to the museum environment and Hillwood's audiences, both core and new. She is a graduate of UMD with degrees in music, cello performance.

Katie will be working on adult programs to include Hillwood's lectures, exhibition-related programming, and performing arts programming.

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.

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

In the Gardens

Even though winter has officially arrived and brought with it some of the lowest temperatures we've seen in a while, a few glimpses of spring have already appeared throughout the gardens.

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



Orchid season is quickly approaching in the greenhouses.

Calling All Hillwood Birders

Are you an avid birder and looking for a new place to observe? If yes, please join us this year as Hillwood embarks on a yearlong bird count. Led by fellow volunteers and utilizing the eBird platform, Hillwood's bird count will contribute to an ever-growing global database that monitors bird populations. Bird counts play an integral role in bird conservation and research including species management, habitat protection, and informing law and policy.

If you would like to participate in the 2023 Hillwood bird count, please join us onsite at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 23, in the Dina Merrill pavilion for an introductory meeting. Besides meeting and chatting with fellow birders, program specifics will be discussed including how the observing, recording, and sharing of information for the project will be managed. Please send a quick note to Drew Asbury at dasbury@hillwoodmuseum.org if you plan to attend the introductory session.

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: Paintings & Portraiture

NEW DATE: January 19 (Thursday), 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."

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.

Save the Date: Upcoming Horticulture Events

All volunteers are invited to a morning of horticulture related presentations. Both programs will be virtual this year and no registration is needed. More details, including a Zoom link to join the programs, will be coming soon. [Click here for more details](#).

- **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](#)
- December 12: [Jewelry and Costumes Collection with Megan Martinelli](#)

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 >](#)



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward](#) | [View in browser](#)

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.

