

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

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## MARCH 2023 SCHEDULE

The March 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](mailto: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.

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## 2023 VOLUNTEER BUSINESS MEETING & GUEST PASSES

Thank you for joining us on January 25 for the Virtual Volunteer Business Meeting. During the one-hour and 15-minute Zoom webinar, Hillwood's senior management team presented their department's 2023 goals and projects as they relate to Hillwood's strategic plan. The meeting concluded with an informative Q&A session.

**How to watch:** The [video of the volunteer business meeting](#) is now available on Hillwood's volunteer website on the "2023 Lecture Videos" page. We strongly recommend those who could not attend the virtual meeting live watch the recording.

Guest passes were mailed to volunteers on February 1, 2023. If you have yet to receive yours, please reach out to us at [volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org](mailto:volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org).

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## JANUARY CLEANING & NEW MANSION INSTALLATION

January is a busy month for Hillwood's collections team as they complete the annual cleaning of the mansion, deinstall our 2022 exhibitions, install our upcoming exhibition *Determined Women: Collectors, Artists, and Designers at Hillwood*, and prepare the first rotation of mansion displays. New this year, the collections team will also be able to open a "behind-the-scenes" room in the mansion for all to enjoy.

[Click here to see some of the new installations in the mansion.](#)



*Special display in the pavilion*

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## BLACK TRUSTEE ALLIANCE FOR ART MUSEUMS

Hillwood recently joined the [Black Trustee Alliance for Art Museums](#). The mission of the Black Trustee Alliance for Art Museums (BTA) is to transform art museums into more equitable and excellent spaces of cultural engagement by harnessing the power of Black trustees. Knowing that a museum's board of trustees plays a key role in shaping an institution's direction, BTA focuses on barriers to entry and advancement for Black staff and leadership, giving them a collective voice focused on equitable representation. [You can learn more about the alliance here.](#)

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## UPCOMING EXHIBITION

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. This special exhibition will explore the innovating and intrepid collectors, artists, and designers within Hillwood's collection, those who set an example for Marjorie Merriweather Post and future women by making a place for themselves and overcoming obstacles through their determination to succeed.

For your reference, we have created a new location on the volunteer website for information relating to the *Determined Women* exhibition. Located under the "Educational Resources" dropdown tab at the top of the volunteer website homepage, there is a new section titled "*Determined Women* Exhibition Information". On this page, please find:

- [the exhibition label text and general mansion rotation information](#)
- [a guide to objects in \*Determined Women\* that moved from the mansion to the dacha \(updated 02.07.23\)](#)
- [a list of replacement porcelain on display in the mansion in the pavilion hallway](#)
- [a list of objects in the new case in the French drawing room](#)



*Portrait of Princess Dashkova (51.66)*

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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:** Who were Marjorie Post's peers as a society hostess during her life in Washington, D.C.?

**This month's answer:** [Read Jason's response and learn more about some early inspirations for Marjorie Post and her peers, as well as other premier hostesses of Post's time.](#)

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



*Evalyn Walsh McLean, 1914*

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## HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

### In the Gardens

It might still be winter, but signs of spring are appearing everywhere in the gardens! [Please enjoy a few recent photos of the gardens and greenhouses captured by Drew Asbury, horticulturist and volunteer manager.](#)



*Camellia blossom near Friendship Walk*

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### State of Sustainability at Hillwood

Hillwood and the staff take sustainability seriously and work hard on a wide array of initiatives throughout the year. For that reason, the Hillwood Environmental Action Team (HEAT) decided to draft a document capturing the work. This new annual "State of Sustainability" provides an overview of 2022 staff accomplishments and upcoming initiatives for 2023. Highlights include the results of the campus-wide water usage goal, individual department achievements, and outreach over the course of the year. HEAT is happy to announce a 2023 institutional goal to reduce Hillwood's reliance on paper by 5% for 2023.

[Click here to view the 2022 State of Sustainability report, which provides an overview of the 2022 staff accomplishments and upcoming ideas for 2023.](#)

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## Winter Tree Work

Trees are an important part of our environment and of Hillwood's landscape that require attention while Hillwood is closed to the public. [Learn more here about what happened behind the scenes this winter and about two of our important residents.](#)



*Winter trees around Hillwood*

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## Staff Updates

Please join us in welcoming May Aldana and Andrew Bedenbaugh full-time in the horticulture department at Hillwood.

May Aldana has joined the horticulture department as a full-time gardener. Starting in September of 2022 in a temporary role, May's dedication and positive attitude made her a great permanent addition to the team. Beyond the hands-on training as a seasonal, May brings experience in both sustainable vegetable gardening and greenhouse production. She has an associate degree in Environmental Horticulture from Montgomery College and is studying to become a Certified Professional Horticulturist of Maryland.

Horticulture is also happy to announce that Andrew Bedenbaugh, orchid and tropical specialist, agreed to move to full-time in January. Starting with Hillwood in 2016, he has been an integral part in the health of the collection. With the extra hours, Andrew is already building new displays and making the greenhouse shine in preparation for orchid month. Moving forward, it will be exciting to see the impact of his additional time in the greenhouse.



*May Aldana, gardener, and Andrew Bedenbaugh, orchid and tropical specialist*

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## VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

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

### **Volunteer Lecture | *Determined Women: Collectors, Artists, and Designers at Hillwood* Monday, February 27 (10 a.m.)**

Presented by Wilfried Zeisler, Chief Curator, this virtual lecture will provide more information about Hillwood's upcoming exhibition opening on February 18, 2023: [Determined Women: Collectors, Artists, and Designers 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."

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## Day of Horticulture

**Monday, March 6 (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)**

All volunteers are invited to a morning of horticulture related presentations. This program is virtual, and no registration is needed. 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." [Click here for more details about the day's schedule.](#)

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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 "[2023 Lecture Videos](#)" page.

- January 19: [Paintings and Portraiture with Wilfried Zeisler](#)
- January 23: [Historic Objects and Contemporary Stories and Artists Lecture with Wilfried Zeisler](#)
- January 25: [2023 Volunteer Business Meeting](#)
- February 6: [Green Day of Horticulture](#)

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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, Marisa Gonzalez, Drew Asbury, and Samantha Hernandez

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### 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 >](#)

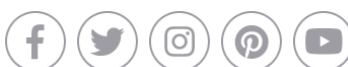
### STAY CONNECTED

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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