



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

APRIL 2023 SCHEDULE

The April 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.

SAVE THE DATE: VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Join your fellow volunteers and Hillwood staff for a spring reception in your honor on **Monday, May 15** from **5-7 p.m.** The event will take place in-person under the C.W. Post center tent. An online invitation will be emailed in the coming weeks. We eagerly look forward to gathering together and celebrating your collective contributions to Hillwood.

TELEPHONE ROOM INSTALLATION IN MANSION

The telephone room on the first floor of the mansion was successfully installed at the end of February and is now on display. The room has been refurbished with historic pieces featured in the only archival photo taken prior to the mansion's transition to a museum. The telephone room, its historic wallpaper, and the various documents on the wall are now visible from behind a stanchion. With the move to the Collections and Research Center in 2021-2022, many spaces in the mansion's basement and third floor that were previously used for storage have been vacated. As relocations and moves continue, many of these spaces will be transformed into new, accessible "behind the scenes" spaces. Be on the lookout for additional information later this year as other behind-the-scenes spaces become available.

For more information on the telephone room, as well an archival photo of the room as it was used before the mansion opened as a museum, [please view page 3 of this article originally included in the February 2023 volunteer newsletter](#).



*Telephone Room Installation in February
2023*

PARKING REMINDER

To ensure we offer a safe environment, please be sure to follow the driving and parking guidelines on the estate. When you arrive for your shift, please park in volunteer designated parking: the six unnumbered parking spaces along the back rail behind C.W. Post and on lower gate drive. Please be mindful to observe the 15-mph speed limit while driving on the estate and be aware of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. If directed by security to park on lower gate drive, volunteers comfortable driving the access road should continue to do so. For those not comfortable driving the access road, please utilize the utmost caution when traversing lower gate drive to complete a three point turn as it is not intended to be a two way road. A [map detailing the volunteer parking plan](#) is available on the volunteer website.

HATTIE CARNEGIE AT HILLWOOD

Hattie Carnegie was amongst the many *Determined Women* Marjorie Merriweather Post worked with. Carnegie (born Henrietta Henrietta Kanegaiser, Vienna, 1886-1956) had enduring name recognition and a lasting impact on the American fashion industry. Carnegie's expertise in retail is represented at Hillwood via two extent dresses in the collection.

This article by Megan Martinelli, associate curator of textiles, apparel, jewelry, and accessories, takes a closer look at these ensembles.



Evening Dress, Hattie Carnegie (American, born Austrian, 1886–1956)

DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT INTERNS AT HILLWOOD

We are delighted to welcome three high school seniors as interns at Hillwood this spring! These interns are students in the museum studies program at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, a public high school in DC. They will be working on a variety of projects and participating in hands-on experiences with Hillwood's collections & curatorial division and interpretation department to gain an understanding of professional life and career paths in the museum field.

For more about the internship program, please [click here](#).



Duke Ellington interns get a behind-the-scenes view of the beginning of the exhibition construction process

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](#).

VISITOR SERVICES DEPARTMENT NEWS

After working with our visitor services team last year to effectively and graciously welcome over 98,000 visitors, two members of our team have recently received promotions:

- Meredith DeSantis is the new Head of Visitor Experience, extending her area of responsibility to the oversight of our cafe provider, Constellation, and working with our general manager, Fran Nepomucemo, to help ensure the continued excellence of the cafe service for all of our guests.
- Tyler Newcomer is the new Manager of Visitor Services and will oversee the Visitor Services Associates to ensure the great work of serving all of our guests in a gracious and welcoming manner continues as our visitor base continues to grow.

Join Hillwood in congratulating them for their great work!

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

In the Gardens

Spring is in the air and the gardens are responding! It seems a new flower appears almost daily in the gardens. Combined with Orchid Month in the greenhouse, there's certainly plenty for all to see!

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



Daffodil 'Jetfire' near the ellipse lawn.

Orchid Month

Orchid Month is here! This year you will find a display of slipper orchids in the entrance house. These amazing stars of the plant world have developed a pouch shape lip to encourage pollination.

Learn about our collection and the five genera of slipper orchids [here](#).



Slipper orchid

Staff Update

The horticulture team is sad to announce the departure of Katherine Parise. Katherine joined the team as a seasonal gardener in 2021 and then returned in a permanent gardener position later that year. She has been offered an amazing opportunity in Massachusetts with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute where she will put her graduate degree to use conducting oceanic research. She has been a great member of the team and will be missed.



Katherine Parise, gardener

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

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

Volunteer Appreciation Reception

Monday, May 15 (5-7 p.m.)

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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.

- February 6: [Green Day of Horticulture](#)
- February 27: [Determined Women Virtual Volunteer Lecture with Wilfried Zeisler](#)
- March 6: [Day of Horticulture](#)

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.

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