



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

FEBRUARY 2024 SCHEDULE

The February 2024 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](#)

JANUARY 2024 CLOSURE

Hillwood will be open through Sunday, January 14, 2024. The museum will close to the public from Monday, January 15 to Friday, February 2 for a deep-clean of the mansion and to update our exhibition spaces. Hillwood will re-open to the public on Saturday, February 3.

VOLUNTEER LOUNGE UPDATE

Hillwood recently completed the construction of the new volunteer lounge in the Butler's House and will be furnishing the space, as well as adding finishing touches, during Hillwood's closure in January. We are anticipating the new space will be ready for volunteers in February 2024. Please note that we will announce the exact move-in date once the new volunteer lounge is open. We are excited to welcome volunteers into the updated space in the Butler's House, which will be more accessible and inclusive for all.

With this move, the volunteer lounge in the mansion will temporarily be used as storage and staging for our collections department. Eventually, it will be transformed into public gallery space, allowing us to showcase more of the collection and expand the Marjorie Post story.

We understand that many volunteers have fond memories associated with the old lounge, and we appreciate your patience and support as we prepare these new spaces and embark on an exciting new phase for Hillwood.

MANSION UPDATES

Mansion Room Closures

We appreciate your flexibility during these upcoming room closures in the mansion.

- **Breakfast Room** | The breakfast room will be closed to the public and undergo repairs starting Wednesday, January 10. The room will reopen with a new table setting on Saturday, February 3.
- **Staff Dining Room** | Hillwood will close the staff dining room starting Friday, January 12 for crate storage.

Mansion Displays

In preparation for the upcoming exhibition *Marjorie Merriweather Post's Paris* and the refreshed second floor gallery space that will reopen in late March 2024 with a new name, *Second Floor Gallery: Understanding Post's Legacy*, there have been numerous mansion display changes. To catch up with these mansion display updates, [please check out this post on the volunteer website](#).

Recent Conservation

L'amour folie or "love folly" was painted by Jean-Honoré Fragonard (1732-1806), a defining French artist of the rococo style during the reign of Louis XV. Set amidst rosebushes and rose-hued clouds, Cupid wields a jester's staff while pairs of doves fly overhead and perch on the ground. The painting underwent meticulous cleaning and restoration by Maryland Art Conservation, revealing the full effects of Fragonard's dreamlike pastel palette and soft, luminous light. Acquired by Marjorie Post in 1951, this work is on view in her bedroom.



L'amour folie before cleaning



L'amour folie after cleaning

FROM EAGLES TO EGALSOFT: EYEMATS INSTALLATION IN HILLWOOD'S
RUSSIAN PORCELAIN ROOM

On Monday, December 11, 2023, Hillwood's first-ever Eyemats were installed in the Russian porcelain room. Thanks to this technology, visitors can now enjoy the Russian porcelain room without stanchions and as guests would have during a visit in Marjorie Merriweather Post's lifetime. [Learn more about the installation process, which was years in the making, in this article by Megan Martinelli, Hillwood's Associate Curator of Textiles, Apparel, Jewelry and Accessories.](#)



Morning light bathes the new Russian porcelain room Eyemats

HILLWOOD AT THE WASHINGTON WINTER SHOW

From January 12-14, 2024, Hillwood will be part of the ever-popular Washington Winter Show with a special exhibition of *Splendor & Surprise*.

The selection of pieces from Hillwood's collection on display at the [2024 Washington Winter Show](#) embodies Post's taste in porcelain, tableware, silver, gemstones, fashion, and flower-themed designs. It also highlights some of Post's lesser-known interests. That most of the objects chosen are held in storage is indicative of the collection's depth and diversity, which are further mirrored in Hillwood's wide-ranging cultural programs, special exhibitions, and changing displays. The items also speak to the generosity of Post family members and other donors who have supported the ongoing expansion of the collection.

2024 GARDEN DOCENT TRAINING

The new year kicked off with the start of Hillwood's 2024 garden docent training program. We are thrilled to welcome the docents-in-training to Hillwood's volunteer team and look forward to working with them for the next few months.

With staff presenting their areas of expertise, the garden docent training is a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to take advantage of these sessions as continuing education and enrichment. For newer volunteers, these lectures and their attendant readings will be good introductions to Hillwood's interpretive messages and garden collections. For seasoned volunteers, the lectures and readings will be good refreshers that may also reveal interesting new angles and research. A new, virtual approach

will be offered this year, allowing volunteers to attend from the comfort of their homes. Some lectures will be pre-recorded and shared via the volunteer website. Other lectures will be hosted live via Zoom.

[Click here to view the list of upcoming live Zoom lectures and pre-recording lectures available to volunteers.](#)

For those interested, the resources and readings for each class are available on the volunteer website on [the 2024 Garden Docent Training page](#). The content is organized by class topics, with the list beginning with the first class in the program. To access the readings for each class, click on the desired class topics to expand the page for a complete list of required reading.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming volunteer educational sessions. The below sessions will be recorded, and the video links will be shared via email and posted on the volunteer website.

A Garden for All Seasons and Sustainable Practices in the Gardens

Tuesday, January 16 (6 p.m.)

This virtual volunteer lecture is part of the 2024 garden docent training program. Join Executive Director Kate Markert and Director of Horticulture Jessica Bonilla for an overview of Hillwood's garden history and sustainable practices the horticulture department deploys in the gardens. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed closer to the program date.

Volunteer Business Meeting

Wednesday, January 31 (10 a.m.)

Hillwood's annual Volunteer Business Meeting will be offered virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 (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.

Garden Sculptures

Wednesday, February 7 (6 p.m.)

This virtual volunteer lecture is part of the 2024 garden docent training program. Join Executive Director Kate Markert for a closer look at Hillwood's garden sculptures. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed closer to the program date.

Days of Horticulture

February 5 and March 4

All volunteers are cordially invited to attend two mornings of garden-inspired talks hosted by the horticulture department. Both programs will be held in-person this year in the visitor center. Light refreshments will be served. [Click here for more details including the lineup of speakers.](#)

- **Green Day of Horticulture** | Monday, February 5 (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)
- **Day of Horticulture** | Monday, March 4 (10 a.m.-1 p.m.)

MUSEUM SHOP NEWS

Showcase is Ireland's premier design and craft show, held each January in Dublin. The merchandise is a mix of innovative designs and time-honored crafts. Sustainability and ethically made products handmade in Ireland are also a feature. Every few years Enterprise Ireland takes a small and very select group of museum buyers from across America to attend Showcase, with hotel and airfare covered. Enterprise Ireland is a government agency tasked with the development and growth of Irish enterprises in world markets.

In 2018, Lauren was selected by Enterprise Ireland to attend Showcase along with 10 other museum buyers from across America. She was able to purchase fabulous gifts she had never seen in US markets previously. Enterprise Ireland has again selected Lauren to attend Showcase in January 2024. It's a very exciting opportunity to represent Hillwood and to find new and unique merchandise for the museum shop!

STAFF UPDATES

Facilities

Join Hillwood in extending our congratulations to Shahid Hussain for his recent promotion to the role of Chief Engineer at Hillwood. Shahid's wealth of experience has significantly enhanced our operations, making our team stronger and more efficient.

We are also thrilled to announce that Ablon Green will be stepping into the role of Engineer II in January 2024. Ablon's hard work and exceptional skills have been instrumental in our successes, and this promotion is a testament to his commitment and capabilities.

The combined expertise of Shahid and Ablon will further reinforce and elevate our facilities team.

Visitor Services

Please join us in congratulating Shannon Bastan-Siar and Erin Rockwell on their recent promotions within the visitor services department! Shannon was promoted to visitor services coordinator, joining Marisa Gonzalez in her new role. Shannon has been expertly supporting Hillwood staff and visitors since she began working at the Merriweather café in 2015. Since joining the visitor services team two years ago, Shannon has been an invaluable member of the department, setting a great example, bringing her joy and positivity to the office every day, and serving as a leader on the team long before

she was a coordinator. Her schedule will remain the same: Sunday-Thursday, as Marisa remains our coordinator on the Tuesday-Saturday schedule.

Additionally, Erin Rockwell has been promoted to visitor services, group sales, and special events associate! Since joining us in September 2022, Erin's excellent work ethic and great attitude have been vital to our success, and we are excited to utilize those skills to support Sammy Myette, group sales, special events, and tourism manager, and all the groups we welcome to Hillwood. Erin will split her time between visitor services and groups/special events, and her schedule will remain the same, Tuesday-Saturday.

Marketing and Communications

Hillwood is happy to announce that Lizzie Axelson has been promoted to head of marketing and communications, beginning in 2024. As manager of marketing, communications, and digital engagement since summer of 2020, after previously serving as marketing and membership manager and visitor services associate, Lizzie has overseen every aspect of our integrated marketing and communications efforts. Through her strategic, thoughtful, and creative management of our social media and email campaigns; oversight of our brand agency, paid marketing plans, and brand messaging; earned media efforts that result in local and national press coverage; and management of Hillwood's website, Lizzie's work is instrumental in helping Hillwood to reach its goal of not only growing our attendance but also broadening our audience. Working cooperatively as part of the external affairs team and across to departments to communicate Hillwood, its programs, and special exhibitions, Lizzie will continue to contribute her ingenuity and hard-working spirit to her role, ensuring that Hillwood continues to invite, welcome, and engage diverse audiences.

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

Jordan Hansen, Lisa Leyh, Drew Asbury, and Samantha Hernandez

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 past monthly volunteer newsletters and catch up on any reading you may have missed.

[Connect >](#)

HILLWOOD

ESTATE, MUSEUM & GARDENS



[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.

Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens 4155 Linnean Ave NW Washington, DC 20008 www.hillwoodmuseum.org