

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

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## APRIL 2024 SCHEDULE

The April 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](mailto:volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org). Thank you.

[Log into Volgistics](#)

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## SAVE THE DATE: VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Join your fellow volunteers and Hillwood staff for a spring reception in your honor on **Monday, May 20 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 April. We eagerly look forward to gathering together and celebrating your collective contributions to Hillwood.

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## NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: FAMILY ART VOLUNTEERS

We are excited to announce that Hillwood is recruiting a new class of Family Art Volunteers from our existing volunteer corps. This presents a unique opportunity for active volunteers who are interested in expanding their service with Hillwood. Family Art Volunteers play a key role in facilitating art-making activities for families and adults at our public programs. Family Art Volunteers commit to serving four, four-hour shifts during art workshops that are part of festivals and other family-friendly public programs. These shifts typically occur about 10 days per year, primarily on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.



*Art activity at Pajama Party Movie Night*

This forward-facing role is a perfect opportunity for those who have a friendly and engaging communication style and a passion for sharing their love of art and Hillwood with others. On-the-job training for new Family Art Volunteers will take place on a rolling basis. Based on candidate availability, the volunteer management staff will invite candidates for an interview and further discussion in Spring 2024.

To apply, interested candidates should review the detailed [position description](#) and complete the [online application](#). Completed applications must be received by Sunday, March 31, 2024.

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## MANSION UPDATE AND EXHIBITION NEWS

### **Mansion Display Update: Powder Room**

The powder room on the first floor of the mansion was recently reinstalled to approximate how it was during Marjorie Post's time with more accuracy. The original rug was reinstalled, as well as a recently restored table by the significant 19th-century Parisian ébéniste François Linke (Bohemian, 1855-1946) in the style of Jean-Henri Riesener. On top of this table is a rococo-style mirror and a pair of 20th-century vases from the Imperial Glass Factory in St. Petersburg. A second 19th-century Louis XVI-style table was moved and installed with a pair of 20th-century French glass vases and pieces from a Gorham silver toilette service from ca. 1920. [Please read this document for more information on the objects installed in the powder room.](#)



*Archival photo of the powder room, located on the first floor of the mansion*

## Hillwood in the News

NBC4 recently visited Hillwood and spoke with Megan Martinelli, associate curator of textiles, apparel, jewelry, and accessories, for a feature on the new exhibition *Marjorie Merriweather Post's Paris*. [Take a look here!](#)



*French couture gowns on display in Marjorie Merriweather Post's Paris*

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## A NIGHT IN PARIS, 2024 VALENTINE'S EVENT

This year's Valentine's fundraising benefit broke records as the highest-attended February fundraising event. [Click here for an article from Amy Hill, special events manager, who reported on the event's success.](#)

Thank you to our volunteers who helped make this year's event so successful!



*Co-chairs Jacquie Henry and Traudel Lange strike a pose in front of the step-and-repeat wall.*

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## CELEBRATING ORCHIDS AT HILLWOOD

Marjorie Merriweather Post had a lifelong love affair with orchids, her favorite flower, investing significant resources into fueling this passion. Today, Hillwood's collection contains over 2,000 orchids of approximately 1,200 different species, hybrids, and clones.

As one of the only public gardens in Washington, D.C. that offers daily access to a working greenhouse filled with orchids, our month-long focus on these exotic beauties features workshops, tours, and colorful displays. [Click here to learn more about the programming offered during orchid month.](#)

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## MUSEUM SHOP NEWS

**Celebrate Orchid Month with Us!**

Discover unique, one-of-a-kind ceramics from [Nina J. Design Studios](#), a woman-owned business located in Virginia. Using fresh flowers and herbs of the season, Nina presses them into clay to create functional conversation pieces that honor nature. Discover the unique orchid collection, available exclusively at the Hillwood museum shop. A plate from her collection is pictured below.



Elevate your home with scarves, mugs, tea towels and more:

- Add a touch of elegance, the floral aroma of orchids, lilies, and jasmine in an uplifting scent with this beautiful [ceramic orchid flower diffuser set](#) (pictured above).
- To learn more about orchids, we have some wonderful titles on orchids like [Happy Orchid](#) and [Orchid Muse](#)
- Stay tuned for new modern designs of our Hillwood water bottles and mug—and even an orchid doormat!
- Check out the Hillwood museum shop both online and in-store for [companion books to our Great Homes and Gardens lectures](#). The authors are sure to delight, so don't miss further insight into their talks by purchasing their publications.

Can't visit in person? [Shop conveniently from your own home with your volunteer discount](#), with shipping or in-store pickup available!

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### **Museum Shop Sidewalk Sale | March 18, 12-3 p.m.**

All staff and volunteers are welcome to come and shop our sidewalk sale. The museum shop will be selling display pieces, fixtures, samples, and rare finds during its sidewalk sale on Monday, March 18 from 12–3 p.m. The sale will be on the second floor of the visitor center just outside of the museum shop, which will also be opened with limited hours that day.

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## STATE OF SUSTAINABILITY

The Hillwood Environmental Action Team (HEAT) is happy to announce the release of the second annual [State of Sustainability](#). This document highlights all of Hillwood's hard work in 2023 related to environmental stewardship/climate change and includes upcoming initiatives to create a better 2024 and beyond. Hillwood has made great strides in our environmental stewardship, ensuring the institution remains vital, healthy, innovative, and current, building a sustainable future for our communities and the world around us. We remain committed to protecting and maintaining the health of the environment.

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## STAFF UPDATE: VISITOR SERVICES

We are thrilled to share the below two promotions and staffing update in our visitor services department this month:

### **Marisa Gonzalez, Group Sales, Special Events & Tourism Manager**

Please join us in congratulating Marisa Gonzalez on her promotion to group sales, special events & tourism manager. Since joining Hillwood in December 2021, Marisa's exceptional organizational and customer service skills have become a vital part of the visitor services operation, and she has been an integral member of the team as both a visitor services associate and a coordinator. Marisa's ability to multi-task along with her excellent communication abilities and friendly and warm personality make her a great fit for this role. Marisa is moving to a Monday-Friday schedule beginning March 11.

### **Erin Rockwell, Visitor Services, Group Sales & Special Events Coordinator**

Erin Rockwell has been promoted to visitor services, group sales & special events coordinator. She will continue to split her time between visitor services and groups/special events. After assisting with groups for some time and becoming a leader on the visitor services team, this new role will allow her to continue to make a great difference in welcoming visitors to Hillwood. Erin's attention to detail, calm demeanor, and kindness are great assets to the visitor services team. Her schedule will remain the same, Tuesday-Sunday. Shannon Bastan-Siar remains our second visitor services coordinator on the Sunday-Thursday schedule.

### **Lulu Adler, Visitor Services Associate**

We are thrilled to welcome back Lulu Adler as a full-time associate, beginning April 3. Though she has remained with visitor services in a seasonal capacity for the past year, we cannot wait to have her continue to aid the team with her enthusiasm, friendliness, and in-depth knowledge of Hillwood on a full-time basis.

Please join us in congratulating Marisa and Erin on their well-deserved promotions, and welcoming Lulu back to Hillwood!

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## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

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

## Volunteer Orchid Month Tour

**March 19, 21, 22 (10:15-10:45 a.m.)**

Join Andrew Bedenbaugh, orchid and tropical specialist, for an entertaining and informative tour of Hillwood's orchid collection. Group size is limited to 15 volunteers. The tour will depart from the horticulture breakroom. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [March 19 Volunteer Orchid Tour](#)
  - [March 21 Volunteer Orchid Tour](#)
  - [March 22 Volunteer Orchid Tour](#)
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## Virtual Volunteer Lecture: *Second Floor Gallery: Understanding Post's Legacy*

**Monday, April 1 (10 a.m.)**

The Russian Sacred Arts Gallery opened in the mansion in 2014. After ten years, it is time for a refresh. Join Deputy Director and Chief Curator Wilfried Zeisler for an overview of the newly designed *Second Floor Gallery: Understanding Post's Legacy*, scheduled to open to the public in late March. The gallery will feature new displays and a new storyline inspired by Hillwood's new publication, *The Houses and Collections of Marjorie Merriweather Post: The Joy of It*. The updated second floor gallery will explore the history of Hillwood's collection amassed by founder Marjorie Post and developed by the museum since its opening to the public on July 11, 1977. A Zoom link will be emailed closer to the program date. This lecture will be recorded, and the video link will be shared via email and posted on the volunteer website.

To catch up with volunteer materials associated with *Second Floor Gallery: Understanding Post's Legacy* before the lecture, please refer to these documents:

- [Mansion Display Update: Deinstallation and Installation \(March 2024\)](#)
  - [Article | Second Floor Gallery: Understanding Post's Legacy](#)
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## Volunteer Orchid Repotting Workshop

**Wednesday, April 3 (10:15-11:30 a.m.)**

In this hands-on workshop, volunteers may bring up to three orchids from home and repot them under the guidance of Andrew Bedenbaugh, orchid and tropical specialist. Green plastic pots and fresh soil media are included or you can bring decorative pots from home. The workshop will take place in the greenhouse potting room. Group size is limited to eight volunteers. Please use the link below to reserve a spot:

- [April 3 Volunteer Orchid Repotting Workshop](#)
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## Volunteer Woodland Path Tour

**April 23, 24, 25, 26 (10:15-10:45 a.m.)**

Enjoy the beauty of Hillwood in the spring and join Marshall Paquin, senior gardener section manager, for a garden stroll and discussion of plants found along the woodland path. Tours will depart from the

cold frames. Group size is limited to 15 volunteers per tour. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [April 23 Volunteer Woodland Path Tour](#)
- [April 24 Volunteer Woodland Path Tour](#)
- [April 25 Volunteer Woodland Path Tour](#)
- [April 26 Volunteer Woodland Path Tour](#)

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## LECTURE RECORDINGS NOW AVAILABLE

### Volunteer Program Recordings

We have had an exciting start to 2024, kicking the new year off with volunteer education programs such as garden lectures and the volunteer business meeting. If you were unable to attend a program, check out our [2024 Lecture Videos Page](#) to catch up with the recordings. The following recordings were recently added:

- [Vista Terrace and Japanese-style Garden](#) presented by Michael Rollinson (February 2024, prerecorded lecture)
- [Lunar Lawn](#) presented by Kevin Beamer (February 2024, prerecorded lecture)
- [Putting Green](#) presented by Marshall Paquin (February 2024, prerecorded lecture)
- [Rose Garden](#) presented by Sarah Bass (February 2024, prerecorded lecture)
- [Friendship Walk & Four Seasons Overlook](#) presented by Marshall Paquin (February 2024, prerecorded lecture)
- [Volunteer Lecture: Marjorie Merriweather Post's Paris](#) presented by Megan Martinelli (February 21, 2024)

### Public Programs Recordings

Please note that the 2024 Lecture Videos page on the volunteer website now has a link to [Hillwood's YouTube Library](#). In lieu of adding duplicate videos to the volunteer website, we hope you enjoy watching public programs, such as lectures and workshops, on Hillwood's YouTube channel. The [2024 Lecture Videos Page](#) will archive recordings that are exclusively available to Hillwood volunteers.

### Garden Docent Training Resources

These last two months have been full of wonderful lectures and class material for our new garden docents-in-training. For those interested, the resources and readings for each class are available on the volunteer website on the [2024 Garden Docent Training page](#).

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## VOLUNTEER REMINDERS

- **New Volunteer Lounge Update** | A new volunteer lounge will be opening in Spring 2024 in the Butler's House, adjacent to the cutting garden. This will serve as a central location for all volunteers to reconnect with one another, recharge during breaks, and access the volunteer

library resources. Until the new lounge is completed, volunteers will continue to utilize the existing volunteer lounge located on the second floor of the mansion until further notice.

- **Visitor Center Restroom Project** | Please excuse our appearance as we refresh our restroom facilities in the visitor center. This renovation is projected to be completed in the spring. Restrooms are available in the horticulture offices, located to the right upon leaving the building. We are excited to refresh the restrooms in the visitor center, which will serve as a fabulous upgrade to the facilities and is also necessary in keeping with Hillwood's mission to be welcoming for all.
- **2024 Guest Passes** | The 2024 guest passes were mailed out to all volunteers on Monday, January 29. We hope you and your guests enjoy Hillwood throughout this year. Please contact Jordan Hansen at [volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org](mailto:volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org) if you have not yet received your guest passes in the mail.
- **Membership Survey** | Hillwood is surveying its members, specifically members who contribute at the individual through donor level. Thank you to those who have already completed the survey. We also invite our dedicated volunteers and members who understand Hillwood well to participate and share their honest feedback. We highly value your feedback, as it helps us to understand member satisfaction and identify areas for improvement. [Click here to take the 2-minute membership survey.](#)

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## STAFF HELP & RESOURCES

Thank you for being a part of the Hillwood community! Our doors are always open. Feel free to reach us at [volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org](mailto:volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org).

-The Volunteer Support Team

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

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### PLAN YOUR VISIT

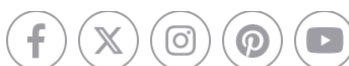
Learn more about Hillwood's current visitor offerings, book an upcoming visit, and stay up-to-date on Hillwood's events and programs.

[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 >](#)



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