



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

JUNE 2024 SCHEDULE

The June 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](#)

PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 12: VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Join us for a spring reception in your honor, taking place on Monday, May 20 from 5-7 p.m. This event is a wonderful opportunity for Hillwood staff and volunteers to gather and celebrate your collective efforts in making Hillwood shine. During the reception held under the C.W. Post tent, you can enjoy delightful treats and refreshments. The evening will also include special staff presentations from the Curatorial team in the mansion. Additionally, this year will feature a used book sale hosted by the Special Collections and Archives department.



The online invitation to the Volunteer Appreciation Reception was email in April via Paperless Post.

To learn more about the reception and its scheduled activities, [please click here to view the event program](#).

Please note an online invitation was emailed via Paperless Post on April 19, and the deadline to RSVP is May 12. If you have questions regarding the spring reception, please don't hesitate to contact volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org.

UNVEILING THE NEW VOLUNTEER LOUNGE

It has been a wonderful few weeks since the grand opening of the new volunteer lounge, situated in the historic Butler's House near the cutting garden. This spacious and conveniently located lounge officially opened its doors on April 16, offering easy accessibility from various parts of the campus, including the mansion, visitor center, and Merriweather café.

Designed as a central hub for all volunteers, the lounge provides a welcoming environment for volunteers to reconnect, recharge during breaks, and access valuable resources. Drawing inspiration from the feedback shared in the 2023 volunteer survey, every aspect of the lounge has been meticulously crafted with the comfort and convenience of our volunteers in mind.

Enhanced Features:

- **Increased Size:** Spanning an expansive 1,225 square feet section of the Butler's House, the lounge offers ample space for relaxation and socialization among fellow volunteers.
- **Additional Seating:** Volunteers can enjoy the comfort of additional seating, including a lounge area and a spacious conference table ideal for group discussions or shared meals.
- **New Amenities:** The newly renovated kitchen is equipped with modern conveniences, including a microwave, dishwasher, refrigerator, and filtered water dispenser offering both cold and hot water options. A dedicated coffee maker and coffee and tea station are also available for volunteers' enjoyment.
- **New Digital Lockers:** Large 18" lockers featuring easy-to-use digital keypads have been installed, providing volunteers with a secure space to store their belongings. Additionally, a coat closet and umbrella holder are conveniently located within the lounge.
- **Restroom Facilities:** A renovated single-use restroom is readily accessible within the lounge area, ensuring the comfort and convenience of volunteers.
- **Scenic Views:** Nestled amidst the tranquil setting of the cutting garden and ellipse lawn, every window in the Butler's House offers breathtaking views of seasonal blooms, creating a serene ambiance for volunteers to enjoy.
- **Volunteer Resource Library:** Volunteers have access to a comprehensive resource library within the lounge, offering valuable materials to enhance their volunteer experience and facilitate continuing education.

The inauguration of the new volunteer lounge represents Hillwood's unwavering commitment to fostering a supportive and enriching environment for our dedicated volunteers. We invite all volunteers to visit and experience the comfort and amenities of this new communal space, designed exclusively for their enjoyment and convenience.

In keeping with inclusivity, please also note that the break room by the horticulture offices continues to be available for volunteer use.

For more information on accessing the new volunteer lounge, including where to pick up your access card for the Butler's House, please refer to the Volunteer Lounge post on the volunteer website.



Enjoy being nestled in the gardens in the new volunteer lounge! Enhanced seating options make for a more inclusive space.

MANSION UPDATES

Mansion Display Update

Hillwood's busy spring season is well underway and the Collections division is hard at work preparing for the upcoming exhibition *Fragile Beauty: The Art of the Ocean*, which will be on view in the Adirondack building from June 8, 2024-January 5, 2025. Please note several objects have been temporarily removed from display in the mansion in preparation for the exhibition. For your reference, [the list of removed objects is available here](#). We will send out the exhibition labels and mansion rotation information in the coming weeks before the opening date of *Fragile Beauty*.

Staff Dining Room Closure: May 16-23

Starting on Thursday, May 16, the staff dining room in the mansion will be closed. It will be used for exhibition storage through Thursday, May 23. It will re-open to the public on Friday, May 24.

MUSEUM SHOP NEWS

Spring has arrived, and our shop is brimming with one-of-a-kind gifts for every occasion. Plus, be on the lookout for merchandise featuring oceanic and nautical themes, in anticipation of the *Fragile Beauty: The Art of the Ocean* exhibition. And don't miss out on [Jason Hyde Jewelry](#), a sustainable brand inspired by the beauty of Miami's beaches and dedicated to preserving the sea from plastic waste.

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



Impressed by the beauty of the beaches, Jason Hyde Jewelry decided to create a jewelry line that will contribute to preserving the sea from plastic waste.

Scarlett Solomon Pop-up Shop

Join us May 25 and 26 as we welcome Shani Solomona, the mastermind behind Scarlett Silk Skirts, for a day filled with elegance and discovery. Delight in the vibrant colors and exquisite designs of these beautiful silk creations, exclusively available at [Hillwood's Conservatory pop-up event](#).



Founded by Shani Solomona creative designer, Scarlett Silk Skirts creates one-of-a-kind, hand-printed silk wearable art pieces.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming volunteer educational sessions:

Spring Floral Workshop

May 17 (Friday), 10:15 a.m.

Be inspired and join Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer, in this hands-on floral workshop featuring an array of seasonal flowers. The workshop is limited to 15 volunteers and will meet in the Dina Merrill Pavilion. The cost is \$40 per participant. Please use the link below to sign up for the workshop:

- [May 17 Volunteer Spring Floral Workshop](#)
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Volunteer Garden Tour and Plant ID Walk

May 21, 22, 23, 24 (Tuesday- Friday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Join section gardener Kevin Beamer on a garden tour and plant ID walk as he highlights plants that beautify the late-spring season. Tours will depart from the cold frames near the greenhouse at 10:15 a.m. Group size limited to 15 volunteers per tour. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [May 21 Volunteer Garden Tour](#)
 - [May 22 Volunteer Garden Tour](#)
 - [May 23 Volunteer Garden Tour](#)
 - [May 24 Volunteer Garden Tour](#)
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Virtual Volunteer Lecture: *Fragile Beauty: The Art of the Ocean*

June 10 (Monday), 10 a.m.

Join us on Monday, June 10 at 10 a.m. for a virtual volunteer lecture on *Fragile Beauty: The Art of the Ocean* with Dr. Wilfried Zeisler, deputy director and chief curator. The oceans are essential to life. Covering over 70% of Earth, they have remained an object of fascination, both treasured and feared, throughout history. Humanity has benefited from the rich and diverse fauna, flora, and resources the oceans provide, continually taking from these bodies of water for our gain. *Fragile Beauty* will explore the art of the ocean throughout Hillwood's collection, from representations of the ocean to pieces created with its precious materials, while contrasting such works with contemporary art. This special exhibition will demonstrate the beauty of and admiration for these magnificent waters while raising the question of how to balance its preservation for future generations.

How to Attend: All volunteers are invited to attend and no advance registration is needed. A Zoom link with the meeting instructions will be emailed to all volunteers closer to the program date. The session will be recorded and the video link shared via email and posted on the volunteer website.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM RECORDINGS

Don't miss out on our robust lineup of volunteer lectures and programs of 2024! If you were unable to attend a virtual volunteer program, check out our [2024 Lecture Videos Page](#) to catch up with the 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.

2024 Garden Docent Training Resources

We just completed our 2024 garden docent training classes. This program was full of wonderful lectures and class material for our new garden docents-in-training. For those interested, the resources and readings from each class are available on the volunteer website on the [2024 Garden Docent Training page](#).

IN MEMORIAM: ESSIE HORTON

It is with sadness that Hillwood recently learned of the passing of longtime volunteer Essie Horton on July 1, 2022. Essie was an active volunteer at Hillwood from 2001 to 2016, where she served as a visitor services volunteer and outdoor garden volunteer before transitioning to the emeritus program.

Notably, Essie's friendly demeanor earned her the appreciation of our visitors, and her impressive gardening skills gained at Hillwood led to her being affectionately known as "Weed Tsar" during her time as a volunteer at the Huntsville Botanical Garden in Alabama, where she volunteered after moving to the area from the DC region. Essie's enthusiasm for Hillwood and all things gardening will truly be missed. She brought a unique passion and energy to her work, and it was a pleasure to have her on our team.



Volunteer Essie Horton

If you wish to learn more about Essie, her obituary can be viewed [here](#).

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.

-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 >](#)



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