



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

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## AUGUST 2024 SCHEDULE

The August 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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## YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS! HELP US IMPROVE YOUR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Our volunteer management team is dedicated to providing a level of support that empowers our volunteers to be successful and satisfied in their roles. With this in mind, and more broadly Hillwood's future, we are interested in your feedback about the volunteer program. To gather insights and understand how we can further enhance your volunteer experience, we are conducting a confidential survey. This evaluation is envisioned as an inaugural survey that we will now conduct annually:

**[Please click here to complete the 2024 volunteer survey.](#)**

If you have not already done so, we kindly request that you participate in this survey and provide honest and open feedback. Your input will help us capture diverse perspectives, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all volunteers. Moreover, your feedback will also inform goal-setting for Hillwood at large. Hillwood is guided by a strategic plan, which has overarching goals that guide our work in a five-year period. As we approach the end of our current strategic plan, we are excited to start working on a new strategic plan for Hillwood that will span the years 2026 to 2030. Your input will play an important role in shaping our overall goals, which will guide Hillwood's direction and work over the next five years.

The survey will be open until August 2. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping a more engaging and fulfilling program for our volunteers, ultimately driving Hillwood's mission forward. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

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## FRAGILE BEAUTY OBJECT HIGHLIGHT: A HEART-SHAPED TABLE

While visiting our current exhibition *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean*, you may have noticed a heart-shaped table featured in the "Treasures of the Sea" section displayed with a selection of objects adorned with mother-of-pearl (acc. no. 31.1101.1-2). Designed in the style of the 1700s, the piece might look familiar. It shouldn't be a surprise as this small table was originally commissioned to complement Hillwood's famous Roentgen desk on view in the French drawing room (acc. no. 33.222).

[Click here to learn more about the history of the heart-shaped table in a brief overview written by Dr. Wilfried Zeisler, Deputy Director & Chief Curator.](#)



*Heart-shaped table, French and Company, interior designer (American, 1907–present), France, ca. 1928, wood, mother-of-pearl, gilt bronze. Bequest of Marjorie Merriweather Post, (31.110.1)*

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### Volunteer Resources | *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean*

As a reminder, there are several resources available to volunteers to learn more about the current exhibition *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean* that are on the [Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean Exhibition Information page](#) on the volunteer website. We hope these materials enhance your understanding of this special exhibition, as you share information with our visitors:

- [June 10 Volunteer Lecture | \*Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean\*](#)
- [Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean and Mansion Displays: Label and Display Information](#)

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## GARDEN TOURING SEASON

The spring garden touring season concluded on Sunday, June 23. Despite the unfortunate heat wave that caused us to cancel the last week of tours, our dedicated garden docents led 3,703 visitors on 346 tours during the 2024 spring season. Kudos to our amazing garden docent cohort, which now includes our newly minted garden docents, for their incredible service!

We are eagerly looking forward to the return of our garden docents in the upcoming fall season. The fall docent-led garden tours will be available from Tuesday, September 3 through Sunday, November 10. Tours will be offered at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday. For more information, please visit the [2024 Garden Touring Season Information page](#) on the volunteer website.



*Hillwood's Lunar Lawn, photography by  
Erik Kvalsvik*

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## *JEWELS OF THE OCEAN, 2024 GALA*

Gala guests made a splash on June 4, celebrating the opening of *Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean*. Thank you to all our volunteers who helped make the evening so special for our guests. [Check out this article from Amy Hill, special events manager, to view photographs and read more about the stunning event.](#)



*Tent and dinner set up in the Lunar Lawn for this year's gala.*

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## NEW VISITOR AMENITY: ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

We are pleased to announce the introduction of a new amenity for our visitors: electric vehicle (EV) charging stations starting in August/September 2024. Initially, we will install a single charging station with two chargers located in the first and second parking spaces of the visitor center parking deck, nearest to the greenhouse. To accommodate potential future demand, we are having the lines buried to facilitate the installation of additional chargers, if needed. These chargers are Combined Charging System (CCS) chargers, which are compatible with a wide range of EVs globally, not just Tesla vehicles.

[Click here to learn more about the usage availability, parking management, and future considerations.](#)

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## STAFF UPDATES

Hillwood is thrilled to share some exciting news regarding the growth and development of our team. We have recently promoted three of our dedicated staff members. Join us in congratulating Marian Hampe, Megan Martinelli, and Connor Beaty of their well-deserved promotions.

### **Marian Hampe, Administrative Assistant**

As of June 24, Marian Hampe has stepped into the Administrative Assistant role. She joined Hillwood in April 2022 as a museum assistant and then became a Visitor Services Associate in June 2023. Marian's new role supports Hillwood's executive team. Please join us in congratulating Marian on this promotion!



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### **Megan Martinelli, Curator of Textiles, Apparel, Jewelry, and Accessories**

Megan Martinelli was promoted to Curator of Textiles, Apparel, Jewelry and Accessories. This promotion reflects not only Megan's remarkable contributions to Hillwood but also the significant additional responsibilities that come with this role. Since 2018, Megan has curated successful exhibitions such as *Mid-Century Master: The Photography of Alfred Eisenstaedt* (2019), *Roaring Twenties: The Life and Style of Marjorie Merriweather Post* (2021), *Grace of Monaco: Princess in Dior* (2022), and the beautiful *Marjorie Merriweather Post's Paris* (2024) that just closed. Megan's publications, lectures, and papers have been successful contributions to her field.



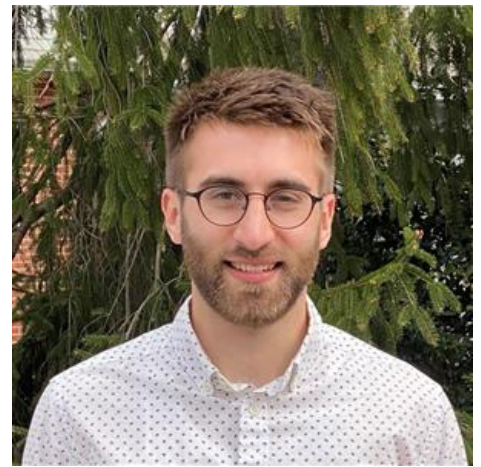
In her new role, Megan will continue to manage her portfolio and supervise all the textiles projects including the mansion textiles conservation project which encompasses the cloud shades, upholstery, floor covering conservation and replacements.

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### Connor Beaty, People & Culture Coordinator

Connor Beaty has been promoted to People & Culture Coordinator. Connor's journey with Hillwood began in our security department, where his exceptional customer service, initiative, and integrity shone through, making him a standout team member.

This promotion recognizes Connor's ongoing growth and the invaluable knowledge he has gained and applied during his time within the People & Culture Department. In his new role, Connor will focus on recruitment, onboarding, and organizing staff connection events. His dedication and commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive workplace make him a true asset to both the People & Culture department and Hillwood as a whole. We are excited to see how Connor's career continues to develop and look forward to the positive impact he will undoubtedly have in his new position.



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## REMINDER: PICK UP ACCESS CARD FOR ENTRY TO VOLUNTEER LOUNGE

If you have not yet done so, please remember to collect your access card from the staff in the visitor center during your next shift. This access card will grant you access to the [new volunteer lounge](#), conveniently located in the Butler's House near the cutting garden. Please be patient and budget a few extra minutes when picking up your access card as the front desk will also be checking in visitors. The visitor center is open from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday.

The new volunteer lounge is easily accessible from various parts of campus, including the mansion, visitor center, and Merriweather café. It serves as a central hub for all volunteers to connect with one another, recharge during breaks, and access essential resources. We hope you enjoy this new addition to Hillwood and find it a helpful resource throughout your time here. Please note that the break room in the horticulture building remains open for volunteer use. If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out.



Photos: Connor Beaty

*Enjoy being nestled in the gardens in Hillwood's new spacious volunteer lounge! Photography by Connor Beaty.*

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## UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming volunteer educational sessions:

### **Volunteer Japanese-Style Garden Tour**

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

Join section gardener Michael Rollinson for a tour of Japanese-style garden. Tours will depart from the cold frames near the greenhouse at 10:15 a.m. Group size limited to 15 volunteers. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [July 23 Volunteer Japanese-style Garden Tour](#)
- [July 24 Volunteer Japanese-style Garden Tour](#)
- [July 25 Volunteer Japanese-style Garden Tour](#)
- [July 26 Volunteer Japanese-style Garden Tour](#)

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## 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.

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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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