



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

SEPTEMBER 2024 SCHEDULE

The September 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](#)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!

The 2024 volunteer survey is now closed. We sincerely value your feedback and appreciate the insights you shared. Your input will help inform Hillwood's goal setting that will guide the 2026-2030 strategic plan. The volunteer management team will also utilize your responses to evaluate the successes and areas of improvement for the volunteer program. We are committed to ensuring you have a positive and satisfying experience as a Hillwood volunteer. While the survey is closed, our doors are always open, whether you wish to share your feedback in-person or virtually.

FALL GARDEN TOURING SEASON: PILOTING LATE AFTERNOON TOUR, FRIDAY-SUNDAY

We look forward to the return of our garden docents and resuming garden tours next month! The fall docent-led garden tours will be available from Tuesday, September 3 through Sunday, November 10. Garden tours will be offered at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday during the fall.

We will also pilot a third garden tour this fall. In September, we will offer garden tours at 1:30 p.m., Friday through Sunday. In October and November, we will offer garden tours at 2:30 p.m., Friday through 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

FROM EXILE TO AVANT GARDE: THE LIFE OF PRINCESS NATALIE PALEY

In 2022, Hillwood acquired the Paley/Romanoff collection, which includes over 300 items, that originally belonged to the family of Princess Olga Paley (1865-1929) and Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich (1860-1919), and their progeny including Princess Natalie Paley (1905-1981). As we prepare for our June 2025 exhibition *From Exile to Avant Garde: The Life of Princess Natalie Paley* which will be curated by Hillwood's Curator of Textiles, Apparel, Jewelry and Accessories Megan Martinell, we continue conservation and study of the collection as well as professional photography. The exhibition will focus on the fascinating figure of Princess Natalie Paley and explore her life in Belle Epoque Paris where her parents lived in exile and where she was born.

Please enjoy this article from Deputy Director and Chief Curator Wilfried Zeisler for a preview of what to expect in next year's exhibition.



Photograph of Princess Natalie Paley in Jean Cocteau's apartment, Paris, 1931-32. Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens Archives and Special Collections.

MUSEUM SHOP UPDATES

Wellness Month Discount

August is recognized as National Wellness Month, a dedicated period for individuals to prioritize self-care, diminish stress, and cultivate healthier habits to optimize well-being. [Take advantage of a 20% discount* in-store and online on select wellness-focused merchandise](#), including art supplies, gardening tools, journals, tea, and other related items.

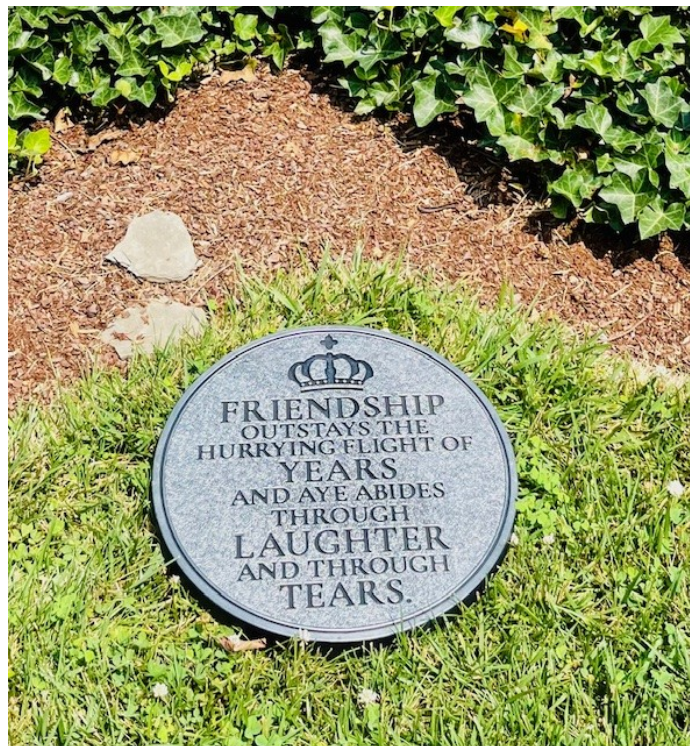
*The volunteer discount can be used in addition to the discount; this offer is valid for the entire month of August.

Summer Sidewalk Savings Sale: August 29-31

Mark your calendars for our exciting Summer Sidewalk Savings Sale! We're making space in the shop for new holiday season merchandise and offering fantastic discounts of up to 70%. Join us from August 29-31, between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., in the visitor center conservatory. Don't miss out on this opportunity to grab great deals while supplies last!

Debuting the Friendship Quote Stepping Stone

Introducing the long-awaited Friendship Quote Stepping Stone! This recycled rubber stepping stone exclusive to the Hillwood museum shop features a quote from the Four Seasons Overlook & Friendship Walk, a note from Tsarina Alexandra to a friend. Also featured is a stylized design of the Nuptial Crown that Tsarina Alexandra wore to marry Tsar Nicholas. Our Friendship Quote Stepping Stone is available now in the museum shop and online, and ready to gift or to keep for your garden!



This Hillwood exclusive Stepping Stone could be a great gift for a close friend, just as friends of Marjorie Merriweather Post gifted her the stone as part of the Friendship Walk & Four Seasons Overlook.

STAFF UPDATE

Please join Hillwood in congratulating Diana Brazil for her promotion to Collections & Curatorial Coordinator! Since joining the Collections & Curatorial Division last summer, Diana's organizational skill and remarkable work ethic have made her an invaluable member of our team. She helped drive several projects including the 2024 mansion rotations and exhibitions, the opening of the Second Floor Gallery, and various photography shoots throughout the year. In her new role, Diana will be taking more leadership in coordinating the work within the division including photography, textile conservation and costume installations, and continued support of exhibitions, interns, fellows, and publications.



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.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming volunteer educational sessions:

Volunteer Summer Seasonal Display Tour

August 13, 14, 15, 16 (Tuesday-Friday) 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Join Jessica Bonilla, director of horticulture, for a tour of the gardens and a deeper look at the summer seasonal displays and other plants of interest during late summer. Tours will depart from the cold frames near the greenhouse at 10:15 a.m. Group size limited to 20 volunteers. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [August 13 Volunteer Tour](#)
- [August 14 Volunteer Tour](#)
- [August 15 Volunteer Tour](#)
- [August 16 Volunteer Tour](#)

Volunteer Garden Tour and Plant ID Walk

September 17, 18, 19, 20 (Tuesday-Friday) 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

Join Gardener Section Manager Sarah Bass on a garden tour and plant ID walk as she highlights plants that beautify the early fall garden. 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:

- [September 17 Volunteer Tour](#)
- [September 18 Volunteer Tour](#)
- [September 19 Volunteer Tour](#)
- [September 20 Volunteer Tour](#)

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.

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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