



JANUARY 2026 SCHEDULE

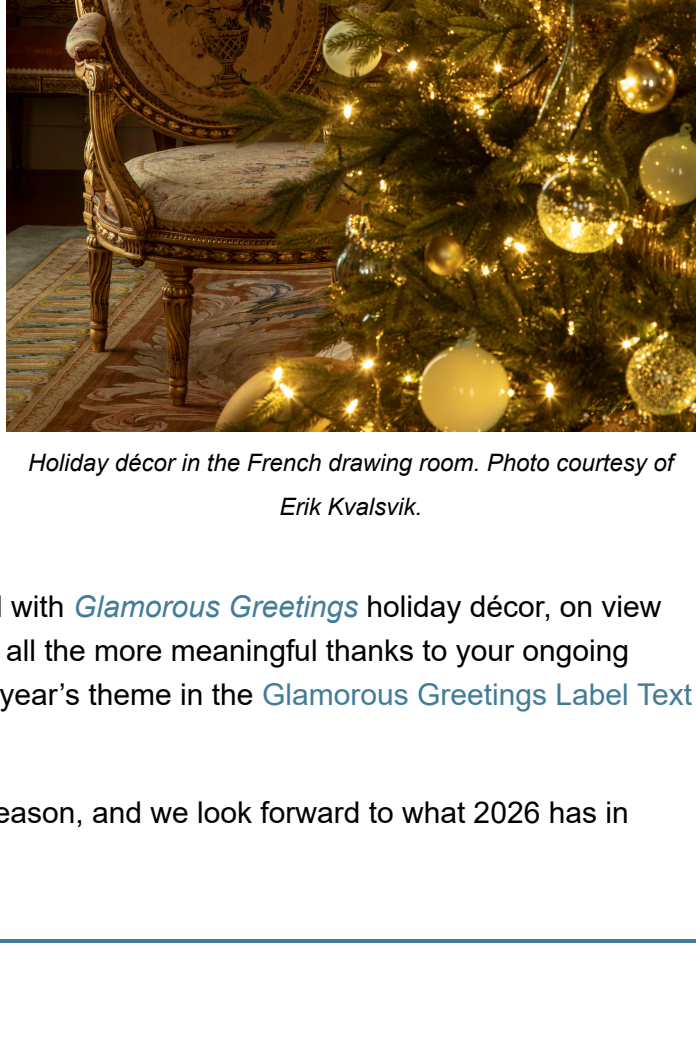
The January 2026 schedule is now open to all interpretation volunteers in Volgstics, complete with private tours and special events. Please log in to your [Volgstics account](#) to schedule your shifts. If you have any changes or questions regarding the volunteer schedule, please continue to contact volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org or 202.686.8528. Thank you.

[Log into Volgstics](#)

Please note: Hillwood will be open January 1-4 and will close to the public from Monday, January 5-Monday, February 2 for the mansion's annual deep cleaning.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM HILLWOOD!

As the holidays approach and 2025 comes to a close, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the exceptional work of Hillwood's volunteers. This year, we welcomed new staff members to the volunteer management team and recruited a new class of mansion docents-in-training for 2026, as well as continued to celebrate the ongoing commitment of all the fabulous volunteers contributing their time, energy, and expertise to Hillwood's mission. Whether you volunteer in the gardens, mansion, greenhouse, visitor center, collections and research center, with school and Scout programs, or throughout campus, the impact of your generosity and hard work is felt by staff and visitors alike. We can't thank you enough!



Holiday décor in the French drawing room. Photo courtesy of Erik Kvalsvik.

This season, the mansion and grounds are adorned with [Glamorous Greetings](#) holiday décor, on view through January 4, 2026—a festive backdrop made all the more meaningful thanks to your ongoing contributions. Volunteers can learn more about this year's theme in the [Glamorous Greetings Label Text](#) resource.

We wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season, and we look forward to what 2026 has in store.

HILLWOOD'S HOLIDAY HOURS

Holiday Hours in December

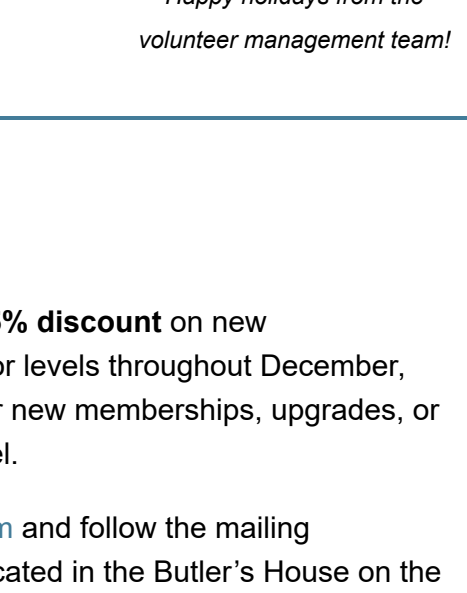
Hillwood will adjust its hours and close early to the public at 3 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)
- Wednesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

Hillwood will be closed to the public on Thursday, December 25. Following this holiday closure, the museum will reopen on Friday, December 26 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars: January 2026 Closure

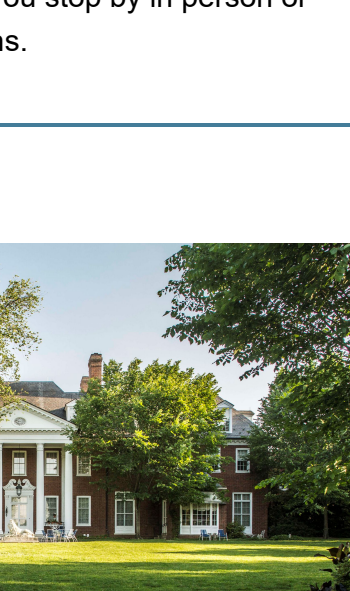
Hillwood will be closed to the public from Monday, January 5-Monday, February 2 for a deep cleaning of the mansion. We will reopen to the public on Tuesday, February 3.



The French parterre in winter. Photo courtesy of Erik Kvalsvik.

THE YEAR IN PHOTOS: LOOKING BACK AT 2025

With 2026 right around the corner, we would like to take a moment to look back on some of Hillwood's highlights from 2025. [Enjoy photos that capture the wonderful programs and seasonal garden changes that volunteers supported throughout the year in this article by Erin Allen, volunteer programs manager.](#)



Happy holidays from the volunteer management team!

VOLUNTEER DECEMBER DISCOUNTS

Membership Discount

As a token of our appreciation, we're pleased to offer volunteers a **25% discount** on new memberships, upgrades, or gift memberships from Individual to Donor levels throughout December, starting Monday, December 1. Please note this offer is exclusively for new memberships, upgrades, or gifts and does not apply to renewals at your current membership level.

To take advantage of this offer, please complete the [membership form](#) and follow the mailing instructions or submit a completed form on the sealed, locked box located in the Butler's House on the staff side. If you need help, please don't hesitate to contact Membership Manager Rebecca Raia at rraia@hillwoodmuseum.org or the membership office at 202.243.3939. This discount is available through **December 31, 2025**.

Museum Shop Discount

We're excited to extend a special thank-you to our volunteers with an exclusive **30% discount** on all non-clearance items, available December 3–19 in store and online. Whether you stop by in person or [shop from home](#), we're happy to offer both shipping and in-store pickup options.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2030

As we look ahead to 2026, Hillwood continues to think about how we can best serve our community, provide the best possible visitor experience for our growing audience, and remain committed to environmental sustainability around campus. [Learn more about what Hillwood has planned for the future in this summary of the 2026-2030 strategic plan from the senior management team.](#)



Mansion exterior. Photo courtesy of Erik Kvalsvik.

To learn more about the strategic plan, please join us for the **Virtual Volunteer Business Meeting** on **Wednesday, January 28 at 10 a.m.** via Zoom. Volunteers will have the opportunity to hear directly from Hillwood's senior management team about the strategic plan, important updates, and major projects planned for the year ahead.

MANSION UPDATE: OBJECTS REMOVED FOR UPCOMING EXHIBITION

Beginning in mid-December, a number of objects will be removed from the mansion in preparation for the upcoming exhibition *On Time: Giving Form to the Fleeting*, which will be on view in the dacha from February 14-June 14, 2026.

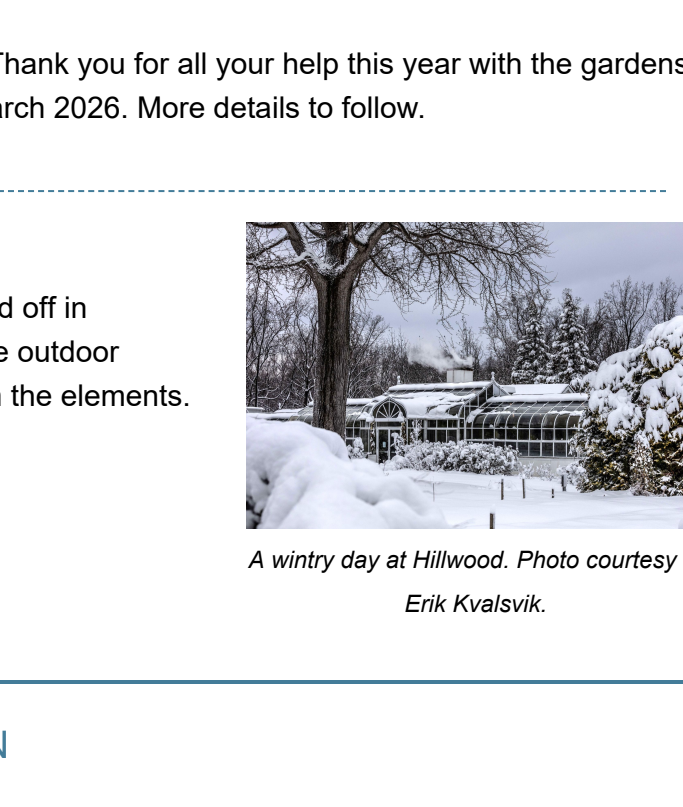
Learn more in this [Mansion Display Update document](#), which is also available on the [2025 Exhibition Information & Mansion Display Updates page](#) of the volunteer website.

SPOTLIGHT ON A SARCOPHAGUS COVER: PREPARING FOR *INTERWOVEN: A TRADITION OF TEXTILES* OPENING IN THE ADIRONDACK BUILDING ON JUNE 6, 2026

In June 2026, the first special exhibition at Hillwood dedicated to textiles will open, a project that connects diverse angles of its permanent collection to two exciting contemporary artists working in the medium.

[Megan Martinelli](#), curator of textiles, apparel, jewelry, and accessories, provides an update on her research in this article.

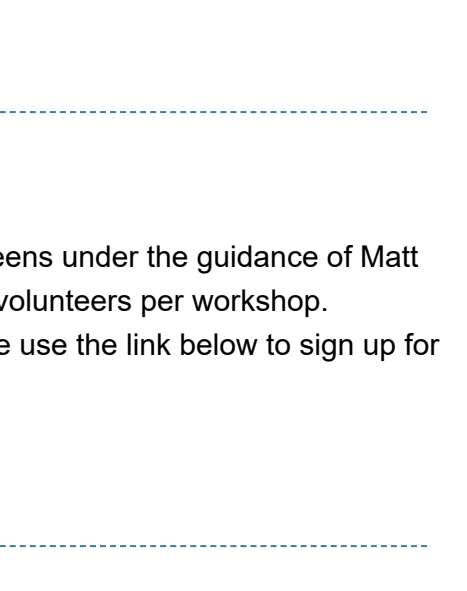
Interwoven: A Tradition of Textiles will be on view in the Adirondack building from Saturday, June 6, 2026-Sunday, January 3, 2027. We will share more information with volunteers as we approach the opening of the exhibition.



Sarcophagus cover, Russia, 1500s-1700s Silk, linen, gold-and-silver-wrapped silk thread, silver gilt Gift of Madame Augusto Rosso, 1968 (43.53)

2025 GARDEN TOURS COME TO AN END

Thank you to our garden docents for another fabulous fall garden touring season! This fall was one of our most successful yet, with our garden docent cohort welcoming **3,594** visitors over **399** tours. We are deeply grateful for the warm and welcoming experience you bring to all of our visitors by introducing them to the beauty of Hillwood's gardens. We look forward to welcoming back garden docents for garden tours beginning in spring 2026!

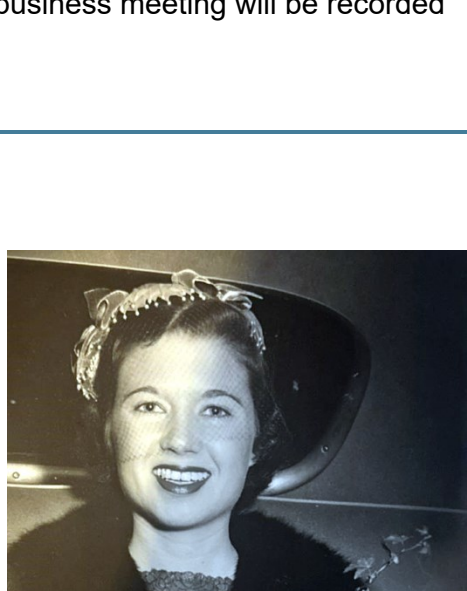


Fall leaves from the ginkgo tree. Photo courtesy of Erik Kvalsvik.

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

Meet Your Hillwood Birds—and the Volunteers Who Monitor Them

Hillwood has a great array of birds that call Hillwood home or that just stop by for a brief visit. We would not know much about these visitors if it were not for our volunteer birding cohort. [In this article by Chris Powell, group leader for Hillwood's birders, and Jessica Bonilla, director of horticulture, get an in-depth look at what birds need to thrive, who has been seen at Hillwood, and how the program is growing.](#)



A Redstart at Hillwood. Photo by Sam Krause.

Save the Date!

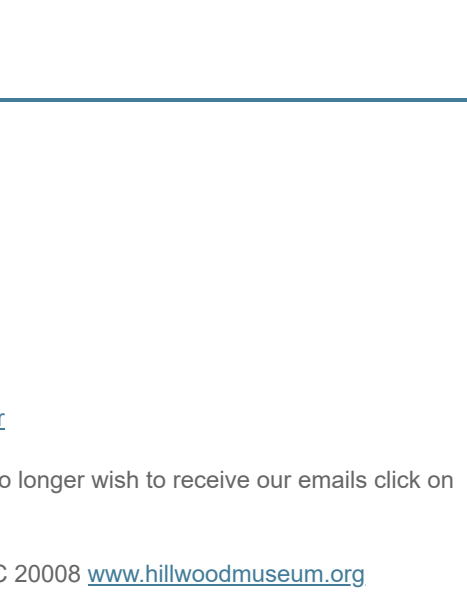
Every year the horticulture staff look forward to sharing their time and expertise with volunteers during two days of lectures. The new year is coming fast so please mark your calendars for the Green Day of Horticulture which will be held on February 9 and Day of Horticulture on March 2.

Outdoor Garden and Cutting Garden Support

Outdoor garden support shifts end December 12. Thank you for all your help this year with the gardens! The staff will look forward to seeing you back in March 2026. More details to follow.

Winter Weather Preparation

The fountain in the French parterre has been turned off in preparation for freezing temperatures, and all of the outdoor sculptures have been covered to protect them from the elements.



A wintry day at Hillwood. Photo courtesy of Erik Kvalsvik.

UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming volunteer educational sessions:

Volunteer Holiday Display Tour

December 11-12 (Thursday-Friday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.

Get an intimate look at Hillwood's holiday decor on this tour of the mansion and grounds hosted by Ami Wilber, floral and event décor designer. Tours are limited to 15 volunteers and depart from the horticulture breakroom. Please use the links below to sign up for a workshop:

- [December 11 Holiday Display Tour](#)
- [December 12 Holiday Display Tour](#)

Volunteer Holiday Wreath Workshop

December 12 (Friday), 11 a.m.-1p.m.

Be inspired and create your own unique holiday wreath of wintery greens under the guidance of Matt Boyle, cutting garden and volunteer manager. Space is limited to 16 volunteers per workshop. Workshop takes place in the Dina Merrill Pavilion. Cost is \$10. Please use the link below to sign up for a workshop:

- [December 12 Holiday Wreath Workshop](#)

Virtual Volunteer Business Meeting

January 28 (Wednesday), 10 a.m.

Join us for Hillwood's annual Virtual Volunteer Business Meeting, offered virtually via Zoom, on Wednesday, January 28 at 10 a.m. Volunteers will have the opportunity to hear from Hillwood's senior management team to learn more about Hillwood's strategic plan, important updates, and major projects for the year ahead. Time will also be dedicated to answering volunteer questions submitted via Zoom's Q&A feature. The meeting is scheduled to run for about 1 hour and 20 minutes. 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. The business meeting will be recorded and the video link shared with volunteers via email.

IN MEMORIAM: JOCELYN LINKE

We are deeply saddened to inform you of the passing of Jocelyn Linke on November 26, 2025. Jocelyn was a long-time patron of the arts and served as a Hillwood Board Member for six years, from 2016-2022, in addition to her contributions to a number of museums, churches, and organizations in DC and across the country. We are eternally grateful for her enthusiasm and dedication to Hillwood, and her absence will be deeply felt by all who had the pleasure of working with her.

If you would like to learn more about Jocelyn, we invite you to read [her obituary](#).

Hillwood Board Member Jocelyn Linke

STAFF HELP AND 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

Erin Allen, Holly Scanlon, Matt Boyle, and Lisa Leyh

Explore Hillwood Online

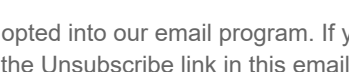
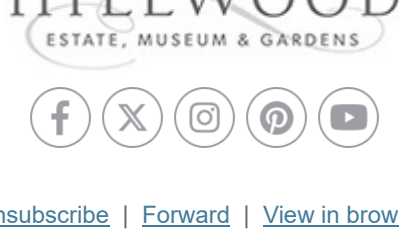
Stay connected with Hillwood anytime through our website! Discover treasures in the collection database, see what's blooming in the gardens, and sign up for upcoming programs. Planning a visit? Head to our [Plan Your Visit](#) page for the latest offerings and to book your next visit.

[Explore >](#)

Visit the Volunteer Website

Stay informed and inspired by visiting Hillwood's volunteer website. Revisit past newsletters and updates, watch recordings of volunteer programs, and review the latest guidelines. Dive deeper into your Hillwood journey with a wide array of educational resources designed just for volunteers.

[Learn >](#)



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