

## Hillwood Volunteer Program

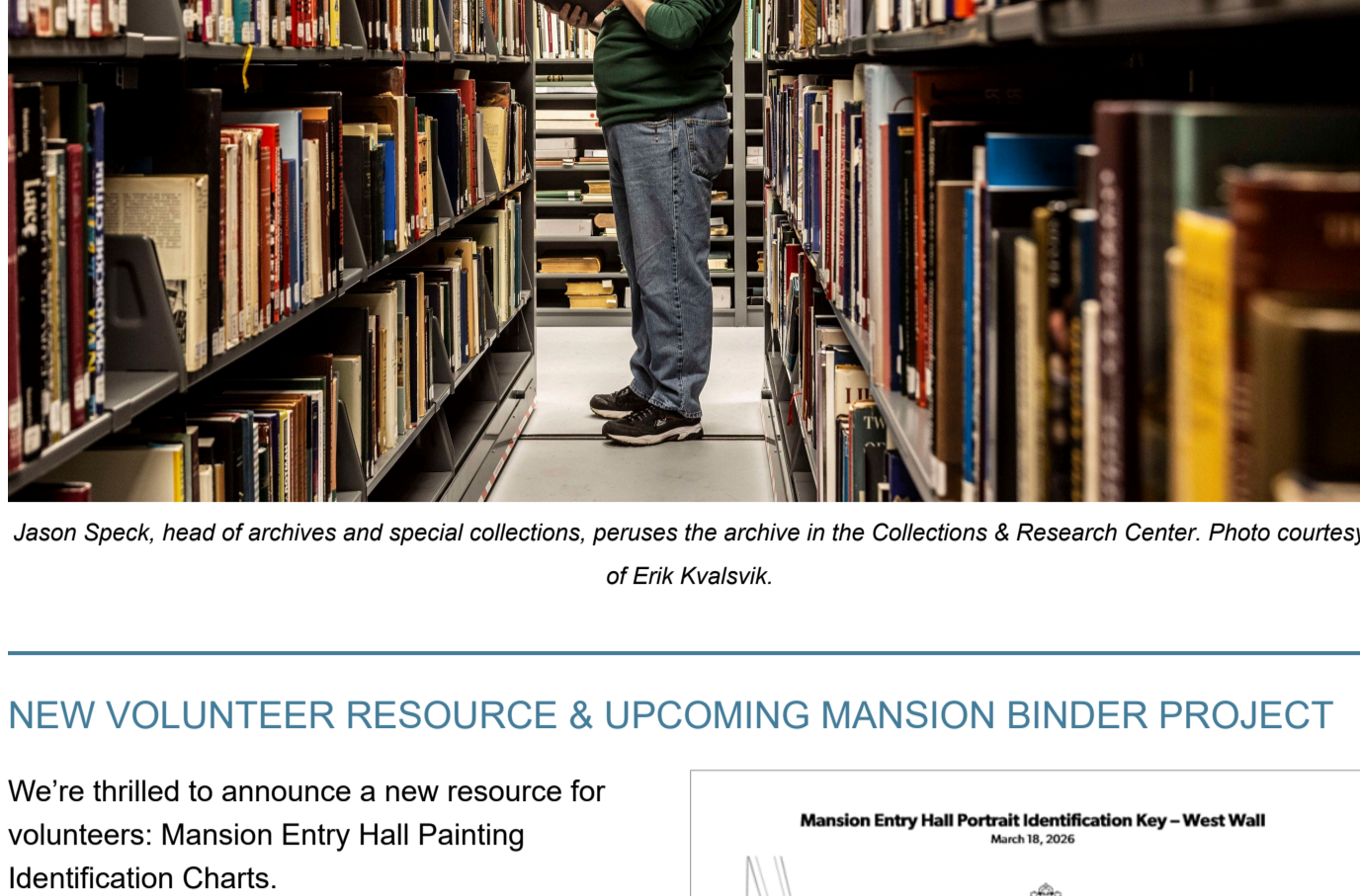
### JUNE 2026 SCHEDULE

The June 2026 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) or 202.686.8528. Thank you.

[Log into Volgistics](#)

### HILLWOOD'S LIBRARY: A LIVING INSTITUTION

Have you ever wondered how books and archival resources enter Hillwood's collection? Take a peek behind the scenes into the acquisition process and learn about a rare find that recently came into the collection in [this article](#) by Jason Speck, head of archives and special collections.



Jason Speck, head of archives and special collections, peruses the archive in the Collections & Research Center. Photo courtesy of Erik Kvalsvik.

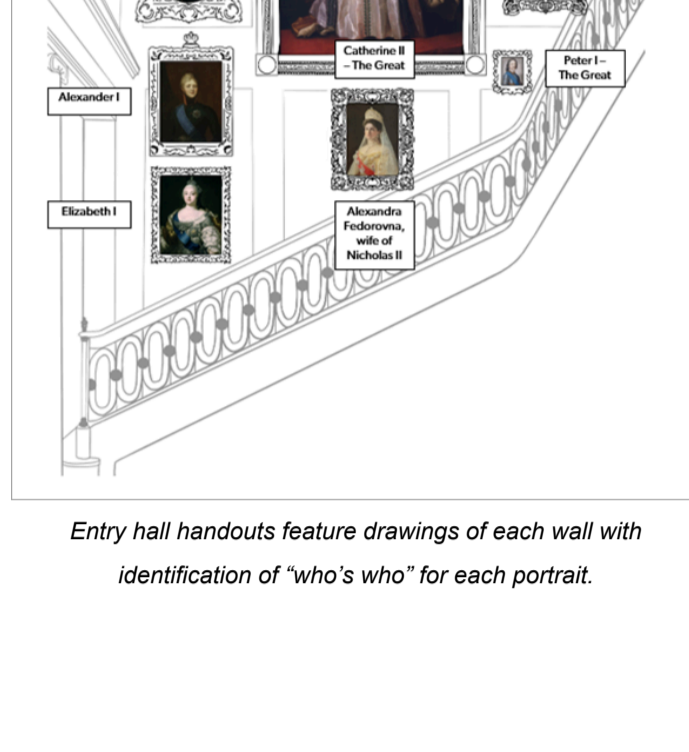
### NEW VOLUNTEER RESOURCE & UPCOMING MANSION BINDER PROJECT

We're thrilled to announce a new resource for volunteers: Mansion Entry Hall Painting Identification Charts.

Developed in response to volunteer feedback, these handouts are designed to make it easier to identify the portraits in the entry hall. Each chart corresponds to a specific wall and includes a diagram alongside images of the portraits. You'll also find helpful details about each figure depicted in the portraits, including object information, reign dates, and additional context.

You can access the handouts using the links below or on the [2026 Exhibition Information & Mansion Display Updates](#) page of the volunteer website. A printed copy is also available in the mansion resource binder, located at the mansion coat check.

- [West Wall Portraits](#)
- [North Wall Portraits](#)
- [East Wall Portraits](#)



Entry hall handouts feature drawings of each wall with identification of "who's who" for each portrait.

We're also pleased to share an upcoming initiative. Beginning this fall, the volunteer management team will partner with the collections department on a long-term project to develop a new, updated mansion resource binder. Planning is currently underway, and work will begin with support from a collections department intern.

Given the depth and breadth of Hillwood's collection, we expect this project to take several months, extending into 2027. We'll keep volunteers informed as the project progresses. We're excited to take this step toward enhancing an important resource for both volunteers and staff!

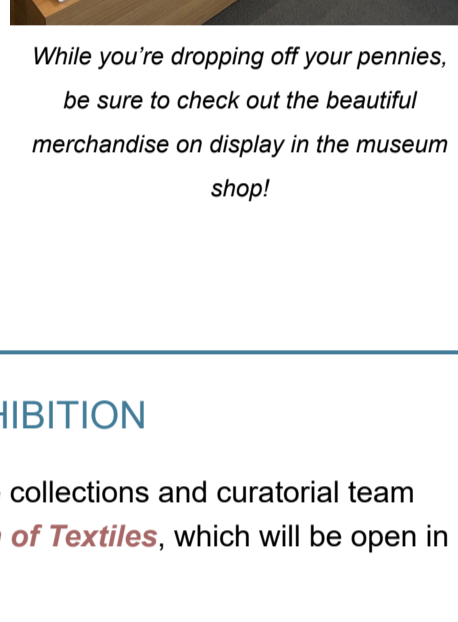
### SAVE THE PENNIES FOR HILLWOOD!

Since November of last year, the U.S. Mint has no longer minted pennies. Thus, it has become more limited in circulation. As a result, banks are experiencing shortages – and Hillwood's museum shop could use your help!

Do you have a jar of pennies at home? The museum shop staff would love to exchange them so they can keep enough pennies for guests who prefer to pay in cash. If you're interested in trading in your pennies for larger coins and bills, please reach out to Laura Graham, museum shop and sales manager, to schedule a time to exchange your pennies. She can be reached at [lgraham@hillwoodmuseum.org](mailto:lgraham@hillwoodmuseum.org).

Please note that an appointment is required in advance for the exchange to ensure the museum shop has sufficient cash on hand for daily operations.

Your support would make a big difference for Hillwood's team – thank you so much in advance!



While you're dropping off your pennies, be sure to check out the beautiful merchandise on display in the museum shop!

### MANSION DISPLAY CHANGES | INTERWOVEN EXHIBITION

There have been a number of display changes in the mansion as the collections and curatorial team prepare for Hillwood's upcoming exhibition, *Interwoven: A Tradition of Textiles*, which will be open in the Adirondack building from June 6, 2026-January 3, 2027.

Please refer to this [Mansion Display Update document](#) for a full list of the objects that have been or will be removed in the coming months, along with the artworks that have recently been installed. This resource is also available on the [2026 Exhibition Information & Mansion Display Updates](#) page of the volunteer website.

We will share more information about the exhibition as we get closer to the opening date, but in the meantime, mark your calendars for our upcoming [Virtual Volunteer Lecture | Interwoven: A Tradition of Textiles](#) on **Tuesday, June 9 at 6 p.m.**, presented by Megan Martinelli, curator of textiles, apparel, jewelry, and accessories. More information about the lecture can be found below.

### VISITOR SURVEY COMMENTS

Hillwood regularly surveys visitors to learn more about their experience around the estate. Time and time again, guests highlight the superb work that our volunteers put in to create the welcoming, gracious visitor experience that we're known for. Read on to see some highlights from visitor surveys over the last few months.

Guests had a lot to share about the positive impact that volunteers had on their visit to the estate:

- "Hillwood is a very well-run operation, and I appreciate all the staff and volunteers do to make it so. It is not easy to achieve such consistency. The special exhibits are also outstanding."
- "Excellent volunteers made us feel so welcome and they were also very knowledgeable."

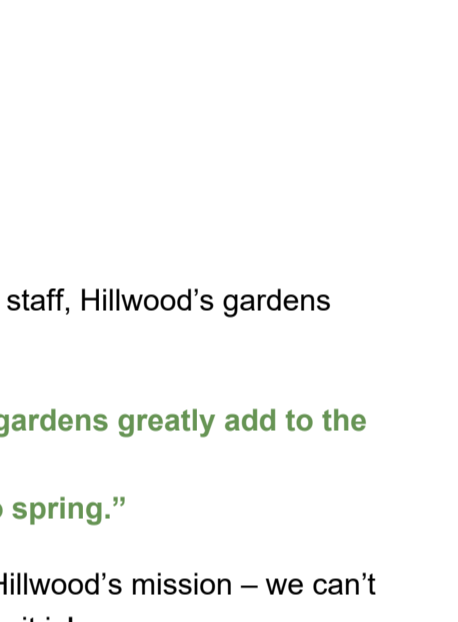
Docent-led tours in the mansion and gardens continue to be a hugely popular way for visitors to learn more during their visit:

- "The docents were all so nice – very welcoming and helpful."
- "We loved the tour. Our guide was absolutely outstanding!"

Because of the hard work of our fabulous horticulture volunteers and staff, Hillwood's gardens continue to wow visitors in every season:

- "Hillwood is a wonderful place, and the greenhouses and gardens greatly add to the enjoyment of the visit."
- "We enjoyed the gardens as they begin their transition into spring."

We greatly appreciate your ongoing commitment to our visitors and Hillwood's mission – we can't thank you enough for all you do to make Hillwood the wonderful place it is!



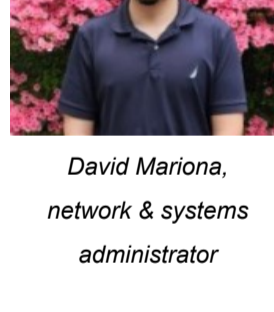
South portico steps. Photo: Erik Kvalsvik.

### STAFF UPDATES | HILLWOOD'S IT TEAM

We're excited to welcome a new member to Hillwood's IT department, and to celebrate two staff who were recently promoted. Read on to learn more about updates on our amazing IT team:

#### Ricky Mitchell, Help Desk Supervisor

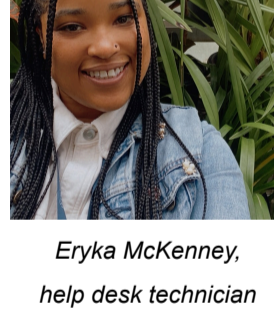
Hillwood is pleased to share that Ricky Mitchell has been promoted to Help Desk Supervisor. Since September of 2022, Ricky has served as a Help Desk Technician, supporting staff with IT requests and technical needs. During that time, he has shown a strong desire to create a Help Desk that is friendly, efficient, and knowledgeable. He has taken on more responsibility, assisting George Sokol, head of IT, while he works on larger projects behind the scenes.



Ricky Mitchell, help desk supervisor

#### David Mariona, Network & Systems Administrator

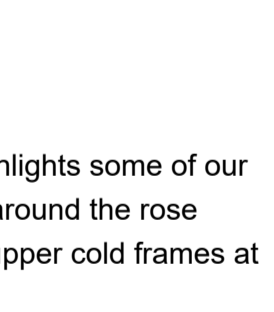
Congratulations to David Mariona, who has been promoted to Network & Systems Administrator. David has been with Hillwood for a little under a year and has shown tremendous skill. He is currently in the middle of earning his CompTIA A+ certification, an industry standard credential for IT careers. We're excited to give him more hands-on experience working on Hillwood's network and system infrastructure.



David Mariona, network & systems administrator

#### Eryka McKenney, Help Desk Technician

Eryka McKenney joined Hillwood in February of this year as a Help Desk Technician. A Washington, DC native, she brings over six years of IT experience to her role. She has been a wonderful addition to the IT team and we're very happy to have her on board.



Eryka McKenney, help desk technician

### UPCOMING VOLUNTEER EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for these upcoming volunteer educational sessions:

#### Volunteer Rose Garden Tour

**May 19, 20, 21, 22 (Tuesday-Friday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.**

Join Sarah Bass, garden section manager, on a tour of the rose garden as she highlights some of our new roses, and the diverse underplanting of perennials and annuals found in and around the rose garden. Group size limited to 15 volunteers per tour. The tour will depart from the upper cold frames at the end of the greenhouse. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [May 19 Rose Garden Tour](#)
- [May 20 Rose Garden Tour](#)
- [May 21 Rose Garden Tour](#)
- [May 22 Rose Garden Tour](#)

#### Virtual Volunteer Lecture | Interwoven: A Tradition of Textiles June 9 (Tuesday), 6 p.m.

Join Megan Martinelli, curator of textiles, apparel, jewelry, and accessories, on **Tuesday, June 9 at 6 p.m.** for a virtual volunteer lecture highlighting Hillwood's special exhibition *Interwoven: A Tradition of Textiles*, opening in the Adirondack building on Saturday, June 6.

Textiles have long served as both functional objects and extraordinary works of art, woven into the fabric of everyday life and elevated by generations of makers. Hillwood's upcoming exhibition will be the first to focus on this essential yet unexplored aspect of the collection, showcasing the remarkable artistry, technical mastery, and cultural importance of textiles across centuries. Drawing from Hillwood's rich holdings, the exhibition invites visitors to consider the enduring power of textiles, not only as decorative or domestic objects but also as expressions of identity, devotion, innovation, and exquisite craftsmanship.

The lecture, hosted via Zoom, will provide an overview of the exhibition design and objects, followed by a live Q&A with the curator. A Zoom link will be emailed closer to the program date. The virtual lecture will also be recorded, and the video link will be shared via email and posted on the volunteer website.

#### Volunteer Cutting Garden Tour

**June 9, 10, 11, 12 (Tuesday-Friday), 10:15-10:45 a.m.**

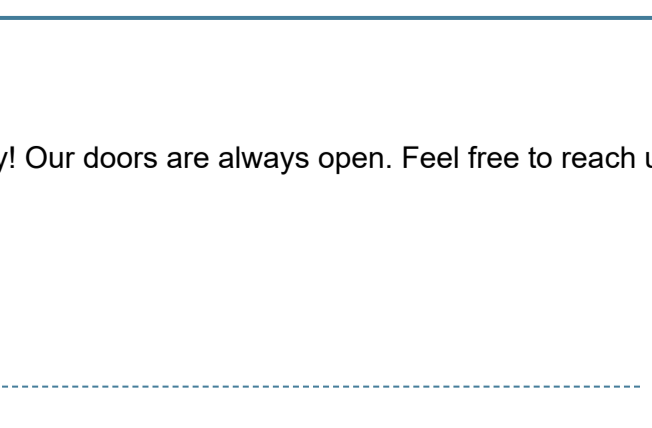
Join Matt Boyle, cutting garden & volunteer manager, for a tour of the cutting garden as the perennials and annuals transition from spring to summer. He will discuss all the tools and strategies used in the area to maintain a functional source of cut flowers for floral designs, sustainable habitat for native plants and animals and a beautiful garden for visitors. Group size limited to 15 volunteers per tour. The tour will depart from the upper cold frames at the end of the greenhouse. Please use the links below to sign up for a tour:

- [June 9 Cutting Garden Tour](#)
- [June 10 Cutting Garden Tour](#)
- [June 11 Cutting Garden Tour](#)
- [June 12 Cutting Garden Tour](#)

#### Mansion Docent Training Resources

Resources from the 2026 Mansion Docent Training Program are now available to all volunteers and staff as part of our continuing education offerings. These pre-recorded lectures and accompanying readings are excellent refreshers and also provide new insights into the collection and visitor engagement methods.

We encourage all volunteers to take advantage of this opportunity by exploring the lecture recordings and readings on the [2026 Mansion Docent Training](#) page of the volunteer website. The content is organized by topic, beginning with the first class in the training program. Simply click on a topic to expand the page and view the full list of pre-recorded lectures and related reading materials.



Pre-recorded lecture on Historic Objects and Contemporary Stories and Artists in Hillwood's collection, as part of the 2026 Mansion Docent Training Resources available on the volunteer website.

### 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](mailto:volunteers@hillwoodmuseum.org).

-The Volunteer Support Team

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

### Explore Hillwood Online

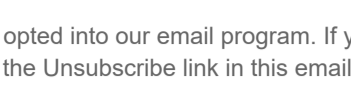
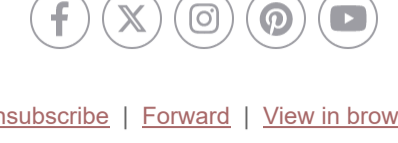
Stay connected with Hillwood anytime through our website! Discover treasures in the collection database, see what's blooming in the gardens, and sign up for upcoming programs. Planning a visit? Head to our [Plan Your Visit](#) page for the latest offerings and to book your next visit.

[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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