

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Hi res images available upon request

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***A Very Merriweather Christmas***  
**Nov 19, 2019-Jan 12, 2020**

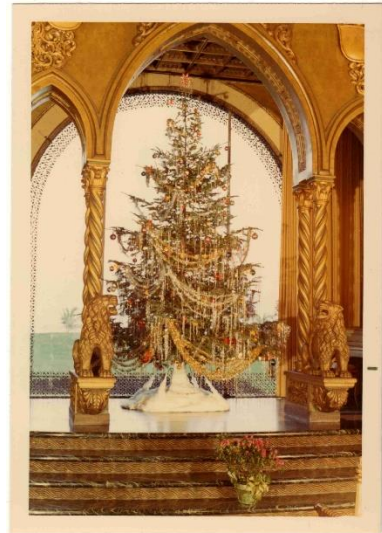
**New biography *Marjorie Merriweather Post: The Life Behind the Luxury* is the inspiration for lavish Christmas trees throughout the mansion.**

**Festive décor, hands-on workshops, and the annual Russian Winter Festival add to the Christmas splendor.**

WASHINGTON—Fabulous Christmas trees inspired by the new biography *Marjorie Merriweather Post: The Life Behind the Luxury* are the centerpiece of *A Very Merriweather Christmas* at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens this holiday season.

Beginning Tuesday, November 19, the glamour and elegance of founder Marjorie Merriweather Post permeate the holiday décor that adorns the entire estate. While Post's love of luxury embellishes the trimmings, it is her roles as elegant public figure, astute business executive, deeply caring and generous humanitarian, and committed philanthropist that characterize the Christmas trees, each drawing inspiration from a theme explored in the new book.

The mansion entry hall tells the story of Marjorie Post's most important legacy: Hillwood, with its verdant gardens and sumptuous art collection. A florally festooned tree, featuring live orchids--Post's favorite flower--along with greenery and roses, evokes the beauty of Hillwood's landscaped gardens. An opulent tree celebrating Post's love of family decorates the French drawing room. Post surrounded herself with framed pictures of her family, especially her three daughters, Adelaide, Eleanor, and Nedenia, as reflected in the tree's central adornment of black and white photographs. Soft pinks, glittering gold, and sparkling diamonds complement the room. In the pavilion, Post's generosity for the arts and education is on display. Her philanthropic support for causes such as the Washington Ballet and the National Symphony Orchestra are whimsically referenced in a tulle tree skirt and shining ornaments of musical instruments. A large tree in creams and golds inspired by Post's acts of service to others completes the dining room. Knitted decorations created by Hillwood staff, who followed in Post's footsteps as



she knit socks for soldiers, are contrasted with ribbon ornaments that harken to awards Post received in acknowledgement of her “great selflessness.”

In the visitor center, bold black, white, and red greet guests upon arrival as a dramatic tree takes inspiration from the *LIFE* magazine covers on view in the special exhibition *Mid-Century Master: The Photography of Alfred Eisenstaedt*. Vintage cameras and mid-century-style ornaments add a unique flair.

## **Holiday Programs**

As always, the gardens at Hillwood reveal the beauty of the holiday season. Conifers such as the blue atlas cedar and false cypress show off their evergreen boughs, while holly and witch hazel provide bright spots of color. Pine trees adjacent to the mansion are lighted to lead the way into the holiday splendor. Hands-on [wreath-making workshops](#) provide the opportunity to explore Hillwood’s magnificent grounds during the winter and craft a one-of-a-kind holiday decoration.

The family highlight of the holiday season is undoubtedly the [Russian Winter Festival](#) on Saturday and Sunday, December 14 and 15. Grandfather Frost and the Snow Maiden are on hand for this celebration of the holidays in Old Russian style. Lively music and festive dances add to the holiday fanfare.

Throughout the season, the [museum shop](#) is a favorite destination for holiday shopping. With dozens of unique items inspired by the life of Marjorie Merriweather Post, in addition to clothing, books, ornaments, and home décor, Hillwood’s shop offers distinct gifts for everyone.

The delightful [Merriweather Café](#) is the perfect complement to a day celebrating the holidays at Hillwood. Warm up with seasonal specials and hand-crafted food and beverages served in the gracious manner of Post.

## **Calendar of events for the holiday season at Hillwood**

### **[A Very Merriweather Christmas](#)**

**November 19, 2019-January 12, 2020**

Marjorie Merriweather Post’s life, as revealed in the new biography *Marjorie Merriweather Post: The Life Behind the Luxury*, is the inspiration for glamorous Christmas trees and festive décor across the estate.

Included in suggested donation.

### **[Traditional Holiday Wreaths Workshop](#)**

**Wednesday, December 4, 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m.**

**Thursday, December 5, 6-8 p.m.**

**Friday, December 6, 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m.**

**Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 8, 2-4 p.m.**

Craft a traditional, one-of-a-kind holiday decoration of hearty evergreens to enliven your home. \$75, \$60 Hillwood member.

### **[Gardener’s Focus: Holiday Décor](#)**

**Wednesday, December 4 and 11, 12:45 p.m.**

**Thursday, December 5 and 12, 12:45 p.m.**

**Friday, December 6 and 13, 12:45 p.m.**

**Tuesday, December 10, 12:45 p.m.**

Get an intimate look at Hillwood's fabulous Christmas trees with Ami Wilber, Hillwood's floral and event décor designer.  
Included in suggested donation.

### **Russian Winter Festival**

**Saturday, December 14, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

An annual holiday favorite! Hillwood celebrates the holidays in Old Russian style. A fun play based on traditional Russian stories of Grandfather Frost and the Snow Maiden will be performed for the festival again this year. After each performance, families can meet Grandfather Frost, Russia's Santa Claus, and take pictures with him. While lively Russian folk music enlivens the day, a hands-on art activity will allow visitors of all ages to create their own *kokoshnik*, a lady's headdress, or traditional Russian gentleman's hat. Shopping and festive dining from Merriweather To Go round out this day of family fun.

*All of Hillwood's 2019 festivals are supported by a grant from the Sally Foss and James Scott Hill Foundation. All exhibitions and programs are funded in part by the U.S. Commission of the Fine Arts through the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program.*

\$18, \$15 seniors, \$12 Hillwood members, \$10 students, \$5 children (ages 6-18), free for children under age 6.

Visit [www.HillwoodMuseum.org](http://www.HillwoodMuseum.org) to register or call 202.686.5807 for more information.

### **Air Plant Wreath Workshop**

**Sunday, December 18, 10 a.m.-noon**

Create a fresh and festive wreath featuring live air plants to adorn your home this holiday.

\$75, \$60 Hillwood member.

### **Gardener's Focus: Bones of the Winter Garden**

**Thursday, December 19 and 26, 11 a.m.**

**Friday, December 20 and 27, 11 a.m.**

**Tuesday, December 31, 11 a.m.**

Be sure to get some fresh air this holiday season and get an insider's look at Hillwood's gardens. The winter garden may not be as splashy as spring bulbs or summer blooms, but there's something equally amazing about a peaceful, winter garden. Evergreen plants take center stage, deciduous woody plants become architectural, and hardscapes become more important. Join Brian Barr, Hillwood's director of horticulture, for this 20-minute tour.

Limited to 10 per tour. Tickets are distributed at the visitor center upon opening each day.

Included in suggested donation.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Location:** 4155 Linnean Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008  
Metro: Van Ness/UDC, Red Line (20-minute walk)

**Information:** (202) 686-5807 for information or [www.HillwoodMuseum.org](http://www.HillwoodMuseum.org)  
Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum or Instagram @HillwoodMuseum

**Hours:** Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed Mondays, most national holidays, and for several weeks in January.

**Café:** Merriweather Café serves lunch Tuesday through Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Merriweather To Go, featuring a quick selection of sandwiches, salads, snacks, and beverages, is available Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Call 202.686.5807 for café reservations.

**Suggested Donation:** \$18, \$15 seniors, \$10 college students, \$5 for visitors age 6 to 18.

No donation is suggested for children under 6  
Adults and seniors receive \$3 off the suggested donation for weekday visits and \$1 for weekend visits when reservations are made online.

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One of the premier art collector's museums in the United States, Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens is dedicated to enlightening and engaging visitors with an experience inspired by founder Marjorie Merriweather Post's passion for excellence, gracious hospitality, and intent to preserve and share the beauty and history of her collections, garden, and estate. Hillwood is set upon 25 acres of gardens and surrounding woodlands in northwest Washington, D.C. Thirteen acres of enchanting formal gardens include a Japanese-style garden, a rose garden, and a French parterre.