



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Images are available upon request

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**GAY DAY AT HILLWOOD ESTATE, MUSEUM AND GARDENS
SEPTEMBER 28, 2013**

DC's *Downton Abbey* in the *Mad Men* era is the backdrop as Gay Day celebrates Marjorie Post's singular skill for *Living Artfully*

WASHINGTON—Marjorie Merriweather Post's flawless style of living and entertaining sets the scene when Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens unites with the GLBT community for the annual fall favorite, [Gay Day](#), from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 28, 2013. A special Director's Reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m.

This year, [Living Artfully](#), the special exhibition that answers the question most asked by visitors to Hillwood: "how did she do it," is tapped for a day of discovering the era of Marjorie Post in the 1950s and 1960s and learning how her tastes, habits, style, and standards continue to inspire a gracious way of living today.

Gay Day 2013 is sponsored by [Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams](#).



Family Pancake Breakfast

In a nod to Post's beloved Adirondack Pie—a pancake specialty she served every summer at her Adirondack retreat, Camp Topridge—the day begins with a Family Pancake Breakfast with [Rainbow Families DC](#) from 10 am to noon. While enjoying a morning in the style of Post's famous garden parties, families will also decorate their own picture frames inspired by the opulent [Fabergé](#) and Cartier frames and art pieces on display in the Mansion; practice on the [Putting Green](#) as Marjorie's guests once did;

play games, dress up, and read books in a special book nook; or have their faces painted with garden-inspired design.

An Afternoon of *Living Artfully*

In the afternoon, all the elements that characterized Post's perfectly coordinated way of living and entertaining in the 1950s and 1960s are explored for **Gay Day**. From Palm Beach, to the Adirondacks, to Washington, D.C., Marjorie Post brought to her multiple residences an organizational acumen that was made possible only through the gracious management of loyal staff. In a special talk, **DC's Downton Abbey in a Mad Men Era**, curator of American material culture Estella Chung explores the special exhibition ***Living Artfully***, employing recollections of Post's former guests, staff, and family members to offer a new perspective on Hillwood's founder. The quintessential 1950s Wet Bar that has been refurbished for *Living Artfully* will be highlighted during another curatorial talk. Visitors can also watch as head of greenhouse and design operations Jason Gedeik re-creates a magnificent floral arrangement inspired by Post's historic centerpieces—with an abundance of flowers from the **Cutting Garden**, which is in magnificent bloom in September. Post's passion for finely-crafted and exquisite objects extended to the **fashions** she chose for herself. Associate curator of costumes and textiles Howard Kurtz will present the talk ***Dressing Artfully: The Fashionable Attire of Marjorie Merriweather Post***. And a conversation between Chung and the proprietors of ***Book Arts Conservatory***, the firm founded by Post's book binder, will explore Post's patronage and offer a discussion of fine book binding techniques.

As always, performances by the a cappella group, ***Not What You Think***, and square dancers ***DC Lambda Squares*** will enliven the Visitor Center and Motor Court while the ***Straight Eights Car Club*** presents a Classic American Car display throughout the day. In between activities, visitors are invited to view the special exhibition ***Living Artfully***. A relaxing lunch at the Café and purchase of a special item in Hillwood's popular Museum Shop complete the day.



General Information

When: Saturday, September 28, 2013
The Family Pancake Breakfast is from 10 am to noon.
General activities are from noon to 5 pm.

Where: Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.
Metro: Red Line VanNess/UDC (20 minute walk)

Price: \$15, \$12 for seniors, \$10 Hillwood members and college students, no program fee for children under 18.

Reservations/information: www.HillwoodMuseum.org or call (202) 686-5807 for reservation and more information.
Follow us www.Facebook.com/HillwoodMuseum

Sponsored by **Mitchell Gold
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One of the premier art collector's museums in the United States, Hillwood Estate, Museum and 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. Home to the foremost collection of Russian imperial art in the United States and impeccable French furnishings and objects, Hillwood is set upon 25 acres of gardens and surrounding woodlands in northwest Washington, D.C. Twelve acres of enchanting formal gardens include a Japanese-style garden, a Rose Garden, and a French parterre. In the spirit of Post's welcoming manner, Hillwood recognized a need to appeal to a wider audience. In 2001, the museum invited leaders of Washington's GLBT community to form the GLBT Advisory Committee. The committee has helped the museum create and maintain an atmosphere welcoming the full diversity of the GLBT community, including families and youths.