For nearly 70 years, Hill-Stead Museum has opened its doors and grounds to the public, welcoming and inspiring visitors from near and far. Because of your generosity, an extraordinary collection of French Impressionist paintings and fine art, exquisite decorative arts and handsome antiques can be found on display year-round. Outside, rambling stone walls and meadows, historic barns, wooded hiking trails and the marvelous Sunken Garden form a peaceful oasis in our modern world.

A destination for learning, reflection and enjoyment, Hill-Stead’s diverse educational programs merge art and literature, nature and history, creating a unique experience for visitors of all ages. The activities highlighted on these pages are just a portion of the vibrant programming our members and friends enjoy throughout the year.

It is your support that makes everything possible. Thank you for your help in preserving this National Historic Landmark and ensuring that Hill-Stead, and all it offers, will captivate visitors for generations to come. I hope to see you at the museum soon!

With warmest regards,

Susan Ballek, Executive Director & CEO
PROGRAMS MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU

FIELD TRIPS

Our student tours are designed to make meaningful connections to the Common Core State Standards through inquiry-based, active learning. Trained museum educators engage students in observation and discussion, helping to develop analytical and critical-thinking skills. Students of all ages participate, from pre-school to college and beyond. So far this year, Hill-Stead has welcomed over 2,000 students from more than 30 different public, magnet and private schools.

FIRST SUNDAYS FOR FAMILIES

Every month, families are invited to explore Hill-Stead and tour the historic house at their leisure from 1-4pm. Children participate in hands-on art projects, and live music is played on the 1901 Steinway at 2pm in the Drawing Room.

ROOMS IN BLOOM

For the first time ever . . . fabulous, fresh floral arrangements created by local designers were on view throughout the first floor of the museum. The creations spoke to the era the Pope family resided at Hill-Stead, 1901 to 1946, and created a festive atmosphere to coincide with a celebration of the 100th wedding anniversary of Theodate Pope and John Wallace Riddle.

ALEXA HAMPTON/MAY MARKET

Alexa Hampton was this year’s featured speaker at May Market. With humor and wit, she presented examples of her recent design projects. Audience members particularly enjoyed her lively, candid Q&A. Alexa is a perennial member of Architectural Digest’s AD100 and House Beautiful’s Top Designer list.

THE REAL DOWNTON ABBEY COMES TO HILL-STEAD

Hill-Stead welcomed the Right Honorable Countess of Carnarvon for a week of festivities in May. Lady Carnarvon resides at Highclere Castle—the primary filming location for Downton Abbey and one of England’s most beautiful Victorian castles. For this special event, which was held under the grand tent on Hill-Stead’s West Lawn, Lady Carnarvon shared the history of Highclere and the fascinating Carnarvon family stories which provided real-life inspiration for the hit television show. Before the
lecture, over 400 audience members enjoyed afternoon tea and champagne, paired with sweet and savory bites. Everyone had an opportunity to meet Lady Carnarvon at a book-signing following the event.

ART OF THE GRAND TOUR

Dr. Anna Swinbourne, independent art historian and curator, brought to life the vibrant art scene in France at the time of the Pope family’s Grand Tour of 1888–1889. Upon their arrival in Europe in 1888, the Pope family spent the first month in Paris and then returned to the city four more times before finally heading home close to one year later. During their sojourns to the City of Light, they visited galleries, exhibition halls and museums. These experiences lead Alfred Pope to eventually purchase his first works by the Impressionists, including Claude Monet’s Grainstacks, White Frost Effect, in May 1889.

SUNKEN GARDEN POETRY FESTIVAL

Festival highlights in 2016 included an unforgettable performance by the current United States Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera and veterans poetry, music and art featuring war poet Brian Turner. The community cherishes this series of readings and musical performances, held on three Wednesdays and two Sundays in the informal outdoor setting of the Hill-Stead estate.

SCULPTURE TRAIL

A seasonal Sculpture Trail on the museum’s grounds featured work by seven graduating seniors from the University of Hartford’s Hartford Art School. On view from May through October, each outdoor sculpture was inspired by the Hill-Stead story, and encouraged visitors to experience the pastoral surroundings in a new way.

HAY DAY

Visitors of all ages celebrated the fall season at Hill-Stead Museum’s annual Hay Day. Children decorated a pumpkin, had their faces painted, searched for treasures in a haystack, visited the sheep, listened to a performance by Plywood Cowboy and shared an old-fashioned hay wagon ride.

MUSIC OF THE GRAND TOUR

Pianist Marko Stuparevic accompanied featured musicians and vocalists on the historic 1901 Steinway for this three-part series in Hill-Stead’s Drawing Room. World-renowned soprano Maureen O’Flynn, vocalist Lydia McClain and cellist Kayla Herrmann performed compositions the Pope family might have enjoyed on their 1888-1889 Grand Tour of Europe.
YOUR SUPPORT MAKES OUR GARDEN GROW!

Your gifts allow us to share Hill-Stead with over 30,000 annual visitors to the historic house and grounds.

The Sunken Garden thrives and flourishes today through your generosity, and the efforts of our faithful Garden Gang volunteers. Seasonal programs like May Market, attracting more than 75 select home, garden and gourmet vendors, are made possible by your support and The Hill-Steasers our devoted volunteer corps.

With year-round formal and in-depth training, our Museum Guides devote hundreds of volunteer hours to make every visitor experience extraordinary.

GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP
and share the peaceful respite that is Hill-Stead.

Membership supports all things Hill-Stead, and a gift membership is two gifts in one: You can share the benefits of membership and help share the museum with our community.

Gift memberships are available at every level. Complete your purchases by December 10 to ensure your gifts reach recipients, sent via US Postal Service, before December 25. Please provide an e-mail address for your gift recipient so we may send an electronic gift certificate as notification of your gift. For more information, call (860) 677-4787 or visit hillstead.org.
MEMBERSHIP AND DONOR SUPPORT at Hill-Stead means you care about sharing the inspiring legacy of the Pope, Brooks and Riddle family members who lived at Hill-Stead, and their embodiment of the arts and crafts movement.

Your generosity helps create avenues to tell the stories of Hill-Stead in new and inspiring ways. This spring, the special *I do! I do!* exhibition commemorated the 100th wedding anniversary of Theodate Pope and John Riddle, and the 150th wedding anniversary of Ada Brooks and Alfred Pope. Period clothing and dresses worn at family weddings were displayed with other memorabilia from Hill-Stead’s archives, including a piece of Theodate and John’s wedding cake.

THE FLOOR COVERING IN Mrs. Pope’s Suite was replaced in June 2016 with a custom dyed-and-woven match of the original Wilton cut loop carpet. One of only two remaining original carpets left in the period rooms, this textile had become extremely threadbare, and for the past several years, tours could not enter the room. The carpet was ordered through Stark® at the Boston Design Center and manufactured in carpet mills in England. The result is a perfect replica of the ca. 1920 carpet that Mrs. Pope enjoyed when she moved from the master bedroom into this small suite of rooms following Alfred Pope’s death. Today, Gold Tours receive the honor of stepping into this intimate abode for a close-up look at the couple’s treasured Japanese woodblock prints.

In October 2016, new sheerweave light-blocking window shades were installed on all period room windows. The new shades, which remain down throughout the day, block approximately 75-90% of damaging visible light rays. Hill-Stead has had UV filtration on all windows for at least 30 years, but the visible spectrum of light, which streamed in when the old window shades were open six days a week, has been damaging to wood surfaces, textiles and paper. The new shades still allow visitors to enjoy filtered glimpses of Hill-Stead’s breathtaking views.

*Hill-Stead is grateful to the Elizabeth Ferry Speer Charitable Foundation for funding both of these critical collections care and improvement projects.*
The Theodate Pope Riddle Society members contribute the highest level of support to Hill-Stead’s Annual Fund. All Annual Fund contributions provide vital backing for education programs and museum operations.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Acquaviva
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold E. Amstutz
Dr. Duff Ashmead and Mr. Eric Ort
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Bailey, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Ballek
Ms. Susan Ballek and Mr. Imanol Echeverria
Mr. Michael P. Bassock
Mr. and Mrs. Jack T. Blozy
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bogino
Joan and Donald Bomann
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Bombara
Dr. and Mrs. William R. Bronson
Mr. Tracy L. Rich, Esq.
and The Honorable Vanessa Bryant
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Carter
Mrs. Lynn F. Cavo
Ms. Susan R. Chandler
Ms. Constance M. Clark
Ms. Constance Clement
Mrs. Faith Emeny Conger
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Ms. Carol Santry-Covello
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Madeleine Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Brion Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Russell H. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin M. Kane
Barbara and Paul Kiefer
Mr. and Mrs. Roger R. Klene
LEAVING A LEGACY

In her lifetime, Theodate Pope Riddle demonstrated that philanthropy does not require great wealth, but merely calls for a generosity of spirit and a desire to improve the lives of others.

Hill-Stead is deeply grateful to the estate of Lucy E. Holcomb, whose bequest is received with the intent that the gift be used for general operating support. Lucy had been an active Colonial Dame, a group which Theodate Pope Riddle held in high esteem. Lucy’s nephew, Shepherd Holcombe Jr., formerly had been a curator at Hill-Stead Museum. Lucy’s generosity has helped ensure that Hill-Stead remains on a strong financial foundation.

You too can become part of the Hill-Stead legacy by joining the Pope Riddle Legacy Society. Most legacy gifts come from those who have ordinary means and resources, but they provide substantial and essential support for Hill-Stead Museum. Including Hill-Stead in your plans now helps us to plan for the future and ensure that this National Historic Landmark and extraordinary art collection will remain in perpetuity. Besides their importance to Hill-Stead, legacy gifts may reduce income and estate taxes for donors. Your planned gift will allow future generations to experience and appreciate the beauty and tranquility of Hill-Stead.

If you’ve already included Hill-Stead Museum in your final giving plans, thank you! Kindly let us know your plans by contacting the Development Office at 860.677-4787 x131 so that we may recognize you and share the benefits of membership in the Pope Riddle Society.
# UPCOMING EVENTS

**HILLSTEAD.ORG FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION**

<table>
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<th>DATE</th>
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<td>Walk Off the Turkey</td>
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<td>DECEMBER</td>
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<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Holiday Boutique</td>
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<td>3 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Theatrical Holiday Tours: <em>When the Popes are Away,</em> <em>the Servants Will Play!</em></td>
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<td>Extended Holiday Hours for New Year’s Eve</td>
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<td>JANUARY</td>
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<td>Extended Holiday Hours for New Year’s Day</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Wine Cellar Tour &amp; Tasting</td>
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# ONGOING PROGRAMS

**First Sundays for Families**  
Every month, tour the historic house at your leisure from 1-4pm. Art projects begin at 1pm. Regular admission rates apply, Members are FREE.

**Sketch a Still-Life**  
The first Monday of the month, 11am-1pm.  
Bring pencil and kneaded erasers only please. Stools and drawing boards will be provided. $5 Museum Members and students, $15 non-members.

**Lunch, Listen and Learn**  
The first Monday of the month, 1pm.  
All Hill-Stead volunteers are invited to bring a bag lunch and enjoy specially tailored 20-minute talks.

**Story Time @ Theo’s**  
The last Wednesday of the month, 9-10am.  
Ages 2 to 4, $8 per child, FREE for Family/Grandparent membership level and above.