American Red Cross

CrossWords

Greenwich Chapter

Spring 2004

Amanda Davis Named New Chapter Board Chair

Amanda M. Davis has been named Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Greenwich Chapter.

Davis replaces Pamela A. Farr who served as Chair from 2001 to 2003 and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1996 .

Amanda Davis

Pamela Farr

Farr's term ended in June 2003, however she remained in her position to help ease the transition to the Chapter's new headquarters.

"Pam has been a tremendous asset to the Chapter's team. Her leadership was imperative and many of her decisions have shaped the future of this organization. We can not thank her enough for her service," said Brook H. Urban, the Chapter's executive director.

Farr increased her participation beyond the chapter, serving on state, regional and national committees, task forces and councils. She received the John Sheppard Award for Fundraising Excellence in 1999. Though her term as Board Chair has come to an end, Farr plans to continue to focus her efforts and professional life on Red Cross pursuits.

"I have been involved with the American Red Cross for over eight years. During that time I have come to fully understand and appreciate the vital importance of the Red Cross mission and the services it provides. It has been a wonderful experience and I look forward to continued service," Farr said.

For Davis, her new appointment is a bit like coming home and many would agree the Red Cross is in her blood. Her mother, Peg MacGruer, worked for the Greenwich Chapter.

"I'd often drop by while on school break and was always welcomed with open arms; it was like my second home. I learned all about the Red Cross from Mom – I give her the credit for instilling in me the importance of volunteerism and commitment to a cause," Davis said.

Davis joined the Red Cross Board of Directors the first time in 1989. She has also served on the Boards of Directors for the YWCA, the United Way, and the Breast Cancer Alliance.

"I am now humbled and honored to serve as the Chapter Chair. This chapter has changed and grown dramatically from my mother's day, but what hasn't changed is the passion and commitment we all feel for the mission of this organization. As always, we have a lot of work ahead to ensure we remain strong, to ensure we remain a leader in this community, to ensure we remain true to our mission. Together, we can and will."

Kids Karnival

The annual Karnival for Kids will be held on Saturday, February 28 and Sunday, February 29 at Greenwich High School between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Activities include rides, games, crafts and entertainment for toddlers, preschoolers and elementary school children. Entertainment will include Jeffery and the Bossy Frog Band and Blue from Blues Clues. The event's Co-Chairs, Kim-Marie Evans and Keri Cameron, promise a fun-filled event you won't want to miss.

"I love the Karnival. I think it's an amazing gift the Red Cross gives to the community. The children love the rides and games, the parents appreciate the safety information, and the committee that plans the Karnival is very proud to be a part of it," Evans said. Cameron added, "It's a great way to spend a winter weekend."

Additional agencies will offer informational booths and safety information. Admissions tickets are $5 for adults and children ages two and older. Games, rides, food and entertainment tickets are $1 each.

For more information please call (203) 869-8444.

Karnival 2003 hosted a roomful of fun.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

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Amanda M. Davis, *Chair*
Phil Richards, *Vice-Chair & Treasurer*
Tom Stark, *Vice-Chair*
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Don't Take a Break from Safety

It may not seem like it now but Summer will be here before you know it! Children and parents look forward to outdoor activities at the pool, lake and beach. Yet accidents can happen if families take a vacation from safety. The good news is that most water tragedies can be prevented, if everyone remembers the basic rules of water safety.

Learn to swim and swim well. One of the best things anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is learn to swim. No one, including adults, should ever swim alone. Adults should practice "reach supervision" which means to be within arm's length of a child in case an emergency occurs.

Outfit everyone with the proper gear. Kids – and even adults – who are not strong swimmers or who appear to rely on inflatable toys for safety should use U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) whenever they are in or around the water. Everyone, including strong swimmers, should use an approved PFD when boating. Each person should have the appropriate personal flotation device for his or her weight and size, which is found clearly marked inside the label near the Coast Guard stamp.

Always keep basic lifesaving equipment by the residential pool and know how to use it. A first aid kit, cordless phone, phone list with emergency contact information, a reaching pole and a ring buoy with a nylon line attached are recommended. First aid kits should contain plastic face shields, which can help prevent disease transmission. Cordless phones allow you to make that 911 call and to receive calls without leaving the area. In addition, the Red Cross recommends that pools be surrounded on all sides by a fence that is at least 4 feet high. It should not provide any footholds, which would allow a child to climb over or spacing to climb through. The fence should have a self-closing, self-locking gate that is locked when the pool is not in use.

Pack a "safety" bag for a day at the beach or lake. The properly packed safety bag will help ensure a fun day in which everyone comes home safe and sound. Water-proof sunscreen with an SPF 15 or higher, water shoes to keep feet safe from the heat and sharp objects on land and plenty of drinking water are musts. All containers should be plastic to prevent injuries from breaking glass. Also, a hat and sunglasses keep eyes safe from dangerous UV rays.

Learn Red Cross first aid and CPR. While the above tips can help prevent emergencies, it is important to know what to do if a situation arises. And all caregivers, including grandparents, older siblings and babysitters should have these lifesaving skills.

For more information or to register for a class please call Jody Breakell, director of Health & Safety Services at (203) 869-8444.

Visit our new website www.greenwich.ctredcross.org

Winter Heats Up with Responses

The dedicated Disaster Action Team members were called upon to provide critical Red Cross services in response to two fires in December.

On December 5, disaster team members were deployed during the first big snow of the season to the scene of a fire which destroyed a three-unit building on Davis Avenue displacing nine residents.

It isn't a question of 'if' you will need us but 'when.'

A short 10 days later, our volunteers were activated yet again in the early evening of December 15 to a fire which seriously damaged a six-unit condominium on River Road. Once on the scene of both fire responses, volunteers provided canteen services for the members of the fire department and ensured that every resident had a safe place to stay in order to begin their recovery. In the immediate days following these disaster responses, Disaster Services volunteers provided resources for clothing including winter coats, replacement of prescription medication, and ensured that everyone displaced had relocated to a new home. The Red Cross assisted a total of 16 people in their recovery.

The best way to support the services of the American Red Cross, both nationally and locally, is to make a donation of either time or money. By utilizing financial donations, the Red Cross client is empowered by having the choice of which items to purchase to fit their needs and the money spent locally will stimulate the economy. For more information or to make a monetary donation please call (203) 869-8444.

Omayra Comes Marching Home

It is with great pleasure that we announce Omayra Negron, a Chapter staff member, has returned safely after 10 months of active duty in Iraq.

Negron stopped in for a visit upon her return to the states.

A sergeant in the Brockton, Mass.—based 325th Transportation Company, Negron was instructed to report to the U.S. Army Reserve Training Center in Fairfield in January 2003.

"I am so thrilled to be home. The new headquarters looks great and everyone looks good. I am just so happy to be here," Negron said.

Her time was spent in harsh conditions, Negron explained. The extreme temperatures, reaching more than 130 degrees at times, plagued some in her platoon causing constant need for medical attention. She adapted to life in the desert but dreamt of many daily conveniences we often take for granted.

"One of the hardest things to adjust to was the sand. It is literally everywhere. It is just impossible to really feel clean and rested. I won't be going to the beach for a long long time."

After a trip home to visit family in Puerto Rico, Negron will return to the Chapter in a full-time capacity with the Health & Safety Services Department. Welcome Home Omayra!

GREENWICH CHAPTER STAFF

Brook H. Urban
Executive Director

Lee Franklin
Director,
Disaster & Emergency Services

Barbara A. DeGaetani
Director,
Finance & Administration

Rochelle A. Rosen
Director, Communications

Jody-Lynn Breakell
Director, Health & Safety Services

Pamela G. Tinoco, M.A.
Director, Youth Services

Omayra Negron
Health & Safety Services

AmyBeth Gibbs
Assistant Director,
Health & Safety Services

Shawny Hogan-Cirincione
Management Support Coordinator

Ana Rute Pereira
Assistant Director, Youth Services

Tara Lynch
Assistant Director, Development

Timothy Wall
Assistant Director,
Disaster & Emergency Services and
Motor Services Coordinator

Kerri VanHeuklon
Coordinator,
Volunteer Resources and Blood Services

Ron Brown,
Assistant Director,
Finance & Administration

MaryAnne McCormick
Reception

Anchors Away: 2004 Red & White Ball May 22

Sharon Sunoo and Gina Pate Pierce are co-chairs of the 2004 Ball.

The 2004 Red & White Ball, "A Transatlantic Crossing," will be held Saturday, May 22 at the Riverside Yacht Club. While onboard you will enjoy a night of first class entertainment, fine dining, and top of the line service. Come savor the beloved traditions of the golden age of travel.

According to Co-Chairs Sharon Sunoo and Gina Pate Pierce, the theme was selected based on the rich history of the Red Cross. "It has always been there both home and abroad," said Pierce, co-chair of the event.

The Red & White Ball continues to be the Chapter's largest single source of fundraising and that was a factor that encouraged both women to take the helm.

"It is important to support an organization that is so essential to the infrastructure of the Greenwich community. Realizing that the Ball is the Chapter's largest source of funds makes this an important event to be affiliated with," Sunoo said.

Proceeds support the Chapter's essential functions. Additionally, the Greenwich Chapter has been selected by our National Headquarters as one of only four Strategic Chapters to lead relief efforts in the event of a major tri-state disaster. In this capacity, the Greenwich Chapter can by utilized as a launching site for Red Cross operations responding to larger disasters that affect multiple, neighboring areas.

"When people think of Greenwich they think of a relatively small community. Once we moved to our new facility on Indian Field Road it became evident we have the capacity to expand beyond the borders of our community to help more people in need when that time arises," said Brook Urban, the Chapter's executive director. For more information, to purchase tickets, or for sponsorship inquiries please call (203) 869-8444.

Youth Leadership Development Conference

Club Getaway is nested in the lovely pines of Kent, CT.

Americans trust the American Red Cross to be there. They know that the Red Cross symbol says a lot about the person wearing it: This is a leader. That same spirit of leadership and community-building is at the heart of the Youth Leadership Development Conference (YLDC).

Club Getaway in Kent, CT will host YLDC, a mix of recreational fun and various educational presentations, June 27-30.

Here, the youths are taught the mission of the Red Cross, CPR certification, conflict resolution, teambuilding techniques, diversity awareness, relationship building, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. There are social activities to ensure all campers have the chance to interact with one another. When not taking part in presentations, campers are welcome to enjoy numerous outdoor recreation activities such as radical bungee and lakefront swimming. Participants are also treated to social gatherings organized by Club Getaway.

"This experience has made me grow as a person. Through the lectures and conferences, I was exposed to so many different ideas and ways of thinking," said Jenn Smith, a youth who attended YLDC 2003. "I feel like all of us on the trip really bonded together and made this learning experience the best it could be."

The fee to attend YLDC is $75. This fee includes food, transportation and lodging. Scholarships are available. For more information or to register please contact Pam Tinoco, director of Youth Services, at (203) 869-8444 extension 133.

Looking for an Internship?

Join the American Red Cross internship program and make a difference in your community! Applications are currently being accepted for all areas including Development, Public Relations, Disaster, Health & Safety Services, Youth and Volunteer. School credit available. For more information please contact Kerri VanHeuklon, coordinator of Volunteer Resources, at (203) 869-8444 extension 116.

Safety Town Teaches Essential Skills for Kids

Specially designed "Town" makes learning fun and interactive. .

Greenwich Safety Town, a comprehensive safety education program introduced to Greenwich by the Junior League of Greenwich (JLG), is now in it's final transition to the Greenwich Chapter of the American Red Cross. Classes will be held June 7-11 and June 14-18.

Safety Town introduces safety awareness and accident prevention to children eligible to enter a Greenwich Kindergarten program in September 2004. Topics covered during the week long half-day Safety Town program include automobile, fire, bike, water, gun, playground and pedestrian safety, along with information about medicines and poisons, traveling on trains and buses, stranger awareness and more.

During the session, children will learn through their own participation. Under the guidance of classroom teachers, police officers, fire fighters, EMS and other community helpers, children will practice and experience safe reactions and behaviors before experiencing these unfamiliar situations in real life. They will also tour an ambulance, fire truck and school bus.

Children will be taught in an indoor classroom setting as well as on a specially designed outdoor "Safety Town" layout. Each child is fitted with their own bike helmet that they use for the week and then take home to keep. They will ride Kettler pedal cars and walk and "shop" through a kid-sized town complete with buildings, crosswalks, sidewalks, street markings and a railroad crossing learning appropriate safe behaviors each step of the way.

The daily lessons are followed up with take-home handouts and additional reference information for parents and caregivers. Morning Sessions meet 9:00a.m. to 11:30a.m. Afternoon Sessions meet 12:15p.m. to 2:45p.m. Registration forms will be distributed through the Greenwich Libraries beginning February 28. They will also be available at the Chapter, YWCA, the JLG office and at our Kids Karnival. Completed forms and fees can be mailed beginning March 1.

Last year more than 420 youngsters benefited from this exciting program. The fee for this week-long program is $100 and Financial Aid is available. Additionally, we give full scholarship to approximately 30 students at the Gateway School each year. We are currently seeking underwriting gifts to support our 2004 scholarship efforts and to begin planning for an expanded outreach of the program to childcare centers next year. For more information on Safety Town gift opportunities please call (203) 869-8444 extension 124.

Greenwich Youth Combat International Issues

The Youth Services Department of the Greenwich Chapter gives local youth the opportunity to impact the lives of other children around the world. Two programs, the School Chest Program and the Measles Initiative, will continue to thrive in our community this Spring.

For more than 80 years, the American Red Cross School Chest Program has been touching the lives of children who live in disaster-stricken or war-torn areas with basic school supplies. Through the program, one learns about caring and providing service for others. This is a rewarding project for a whole school or for a single class. Youth Services will sponsor a dance for seventh and eighth grade students Friday, March 5 at the Arch Street Teen Center between 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. Tickets are $7. All proceeds will benefit the School Chest Program.

The Measles Initiative strives to give the children of Africa a healthy future. Each year, a disease barely remembered by most Americans kills nearly one million children, a half million in Africa alone. Join the youth of Greenwich in their commitment to control measles deaths in Africa by vaccinating 200 million children. This is a national initiative of the American Red Cross, the World Health Organization, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the United Nations Foundation. For less than $1 a child can be vaccinated against measles.

A 5k, "March for Measles" will be held Sunday, April 25 at 11 a.m. in Roger Sherman Baldwin Park. All ages are welcome! Pre-registration is $10, or $15 the day of the event. All proceeds will benefit the Measles Initiative. The walk route is through Bruce Park. A "mini-walk" for young children will start at 9:40 a.m. Snacks and water will be provided. For more information or to register call the Youth Services Department at (203) 869-8444.

Reception Highlights Bush Family Commitment

Barbara Bush commemorated the new headquarters of the American Red Cross – named in honor of her late mother-in-law Dorothy Walker Bush – during a reception October 28.

"I don't know what this country would be without the big heart and know-how of this organization," Bush told the audience.

According to Brook Urban, the Chapter's executive director, the Bush family has a long and rich history with the organization, one the Chapter felt the need to honor.

"Members of the Walker and Bush families have been supporters and champions of the Red Cross and its mission both in Greenwich and its national headquarters," Urban said. "We were very happy a member of the family had the opportunity to share her memories with our donors and volunteers."

Dorothy Walker Bush was a lieutenant in the Motor Services Corps in the 1940s and a vice chairwoman of the War Fund in 1943. The Motor Services Corps was made up almost entirely of women, nearly 45,000 of them nationally, who transported the sick and wounded, delivered supplies and took volunteers to and from their posts during World War II. The War Fund raised more than $145 million for war relief efforts and was described by President Roosevelt as the "greatest single crusade of mercy in all of history."

Bush recalled the days of her mother-in-law's service. "The ladies of the Greenwich Motor Corps met every week and marched around the gym at the YWCA before the auto classes," she said. "Mom was ready for Hitler. Hitler would have met his match." Following her speech, Bush remained and posed for photos with all attendees.

Photos by Bryce Vickmark Photography

Above, Pamela Farr escorts Barbara Bush. Below, Mrs. Bush admires a photo of her late mother-in-law Dorothy Walker Bush. She is joined (from far left) by Pamela Farr; Brook Urban, executive director; and Amanda Davis.

Tributes
September 2003-January 2004

In Memory of

Marie L. Phillips
Ms. Wanda B. Scheifele
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Hindman
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Hanna
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond M. Aberle
Ms. Barbara H. Butler
Mr. Vincentz Cianci

F. Michael Rielly
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Tierney
Miss Katherine Knapp

Mrs. Edward Heller
Mrs. Marjorie Coleman

Phyllis Mckee
Ms. Nancy T. Coleman

Elsa Nilsen
Haume, Inc.

Theresa Franco
Mrs. Barbara Asher

Steven Glick
Mrs. Lori Woodland

Liese DeAngelo
Mr. Sal DeAngelo
Mr. Fred N. Durante, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Urban
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Rogers
Mr. Frank Yantorno
Ms. Edith D. Jaccarino
Mr. and Mrs. A. DeLuca
Mr. and Mrs. Hans Klein
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Pizzarello

Buff Wohlforth
Susan Wohlforth

In Honor of

Dr. and Mrs. Edward S. Breakell
Ms. Jody Lynn Breakell

Mr. Ron Yagelka
Ms. Christine Lebert

Mr. Bayard Gross
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gross

Mrs. Colleen Hempleman
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Valove

Mr. and Mrs. James Lennox
Mr. Gregory Lennox

Cecilia Stevens
Mr. Vincent Stanger

Community Course Schedule *February—March 2004*

Adult CPR/AED: $55

Mon	**March 1**	6p - 10:30p

Infant/Child CPR: $55

Tues	**March 2**	6p-10:30p

CT Child Care: $70

(To meet the state requirements for Day Care Licensing, this course must be taken in its entirety.)

Tues/Thurs	**March 16 & 18**	6p-10:30p

Adult CPR/AED & Infant/Child CPR: $65

Mon/Tues	**March 1 & 2**	6p-10:30p

Adult CPR/AED, Infant & Child CPR, & First Aid: $80

Mon/Tues/Wed	**March 1, 2 & 3**	6p-10:30p
Tues/Sat	**March 2**	6p-10:30p
	March 13	9a-4:30p

CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer: $80

No dates available at this time. Please contact the Chapter for more information.

Adult CPR/AED & First Aid: $70

Mon/Wed	**March 1**	6p-10:30p
	March 3	6p-10:30p
Sat	**March 13**	9a-4:30p

First Aid: $40

Wed	**March 3**	6p-10:30p

CPR & First Aid Challenge: $45

(Price Includes New Books for all CPR Classes, but does NOT Include a New Pocket Mask for Professional Rescuer.)

Please contact the Chapter for more information.

Babysitter's Training: $50

Sat	**March 27**	9:30a-4:30p

Instructor Training

First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor Course: $120

Thurs	**March 7**	12p-6p

All classes require pre-registration and pre-payment. For more information or to register for a class please call (203) 869-8444.

The 2004 American Red Cross Raffle!
Enter To Win A 2004 Ford Mustang GT Convertible

Tickets are $50 and on sale now at the Greenwich Chapter through March 30. The drawing will be held March 30 at 5 p.m. The winner need not be present.

Yes, I would like to order ____ raffle tickets at $50 per ticket. Total $_____

Name:_____

Address:_____ City_____ State/Zip_____

Phone:_____

State of CT statute prohibits credit card payments for raffle tickets. Your tickets will be sent upon receipt of this form and payment.

Send the completed form and payment to ARC, Greenwich Chapter, 99 Indian Field Road, Greenwich CT, 06830.

American Red Cross

Greenwich Chapter
99 Indian Field Road
Greenwich, CT 06830

March Is Red Cross Month!

Phone: (203) 869-8444
Fax: (203) 869-0192

In This Issue... Davis Named Board Chair, Winter Heats Up With Responses, Safety Town, Getaway

Give the Gift of Life

March			
1	Monday	Temple Sholom	1:30 p.m.– 6:30 p.m.
5	Friday	Brunswick School	1:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.
19	Friday	St. Mary Parish	11:45 a.m.– 5:30 p.m.
April			
17	Saturday	Second Congregational Church	8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

For more information, and to make an appointment, call (203) 869-8444 or (800)GIVE-LIFE. To donate blood you must be at least 17 years of age and weigh 110 pounds or more.