

Postings

For a full list of events, visit Greenwich-post.com.

Patient pampering

Cancer patients learn beauty secrets at *Look Good, Feel Better*, 4:30 to 6:30, Thursday, June 12, Greenwich Hospital's Noble Conference Center; 863-3627; Greenhosp.org.

Women voters meet

Annual meeting and dinner for the women voters of Greenwich, 5:30, June 12, Riverside Yacht Club; \$68 for members; \$90 for Patrons; Lwvg.org.

Museum open house

Bush-Holley House Museum holds an open house as part of a state-wide museum open house day, noon to 4, Saturday, June 14, 39 Strickland Road; free; 869-6899; Hstg.org.

Tickling the ivories

Dr. Tatiana Pikayzen, piano teacher in Greenwich, performs works during a benefit concert for Sichuan earthquake victims, 4 to 5, Saturday, June 14, Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church, Ridgefield; donations requested; scai@fas.harvard.edu.

'Saturday Night Lights'

A night for all local high school students to listen to acoustic music featuring local students, participate in volleyball and pick-up basketball games, and have skate park access, 7 to 10, Saturday, June 14, Roger Sherman Baldwin Park; 869-2221.

Nutritionist grocery tour

Phyllis Schondor, Riverside nutritionist, leads a walking tour of selected grocery store aisles called "Choosing Cool Drinks for Hot Days," 10:30 and 6:30, Tuesday, June 17, ShopRite at Commerce Park, Stamford; registration required; 978-0464; 299-5750.

Chapter says 'thank you'

The Greenwich Chapter of the American Red Cross holds its annual meeting and volunteer recognition, 5:15, Tuesday, June 17, St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall; 869-8444; Sindella@usa.redcross.org.

Before and After Six

Greenwich Chamber of Commerce holds a Before and After Six event, 5:30 to 7, Tuesday, June 17, Ceramic Design, Ltd.; registration required; \$15 members, \$25 non-members; add \$10 if registering after June 13; 869-3500; Greenwichchamber.com.

AARP safe drivers course

Community Health at Greenwich Hospital offers a two-part safe driving course, 2 to 6, Wednesday, June 18, Cafeteria Conference Room at Greenwich Hospital; second part to follow 2 to 6, Friday, June 20, Cafeteria Conference Room; \$10; registration required; 863-4277.

Golf outing

Chamber of Commerce holds "Chamber Niners" — nine-hole rounds of golf and networking, 2:28 tee time, Wednesdays, June 18, July 16, Aug. 20 and Sept. 17, Griffith E. Harris Memorial Golf Course; reservations required; \$300 entry fee; 869-3500.

At home

Introductory tea for Greenwich seniors to learn more about At Home in Greenwich, a nonprofit helping seniors stay in their homes, 3 to 4:30, Wednesday, June 18, 20 Bridge St.; call Lise, 629-2822, ext 3141.

Stroke support

The Stroke Support Group meets, 1 to 2, Thursday, June 19, Old Greenwich-Riverside Community Center; registration required; 863-3792.

Multiple sclerosis support

The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets 2:30 to 3:30, Thursday, June 19, Old Greenwich-Riverside Community Center; registration required; 863-3792.

American prints

One pass, two exhibitions: "Harbor to Haven, Connecticut Scenes at Artist Printmakers" at Bush Holley Historic Site and "20th Century American Prints" at the Bruce Museum, noon to 2, Saturday, June 21; free admissions; 869-6899, ext. 10.

Blood drive

The Greenwich Chapter of the American Red Cross holds a blood drive, 10 to 3, Thursday, June 19, Town Hall; to schedule an appointment call 869-8444.

Physical therapy lecture

AMFIT Physical Therapy hosts a lecture on the body's physical changes with age, 6 to 7, Thursday, June 19, AMFIT Physical Therapy; free; reservations required; 869-5546.

Spa night

Pure Salon co-hosts Spa Night for cancer patients, 6:30 to 8:30, Thursday, June 19, Greenwich Hospital's Hyde Room; 863-3627; Greenhosp.org.

Senior citizen disaster education

The Greenwich Chapter of the American Red Cross holds a class for seniors on what to do in the event of a disaster, noon to 1, Monday, June 23, Greenwich Chapter House; registration required; free; lunch served; 869-8444; Greenwichredcross.org.

Faces of Greenwich



Omar Vargas

By Kari Campano

When you go to the hospital, it's nice to know a familiar face, and none is so familiar as that of Omar Vargas. Mr. Vargas has worked at Greenwich Hospital for more than 11 years and although "security" is his official title, his job duties seem to have very little to do with protection. Posted at the main entrance of Greenwich Hospital each weekday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., he greets each person who walks through the door and gives visitors and patients their "first impression" of the facility and the level of service it offers.

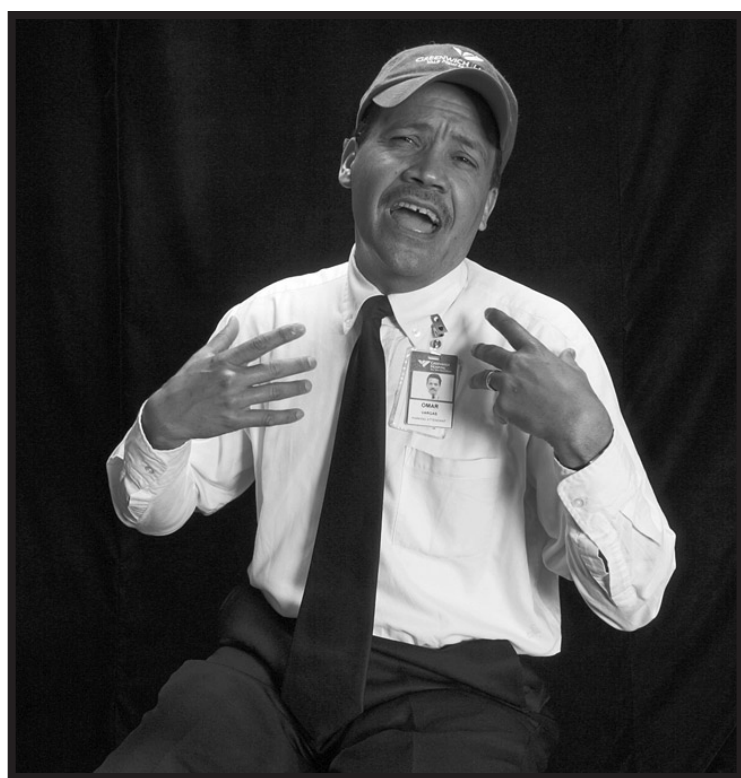
"I love interacting with the public and I show people that come here how much we care," Mr. Vargas said. "I assure patients that they have come to the right place and they will be well taken care [of] from the moment they walk in."

As an employee of the hospital, he has been given countless awards, and received Employee of the Year in 2002 — an award that may only be received once. His greatest form of recognition, which he receives on a regular basis, is written and verbal feedback not only from the administration of Greenwich Hospital, but also from patients themselves. People often call or write letters specifically about him. In addition to greeting people, Mr. Vargas also helps with anything needed as people enter the hospital, from taking care of cars in emergency

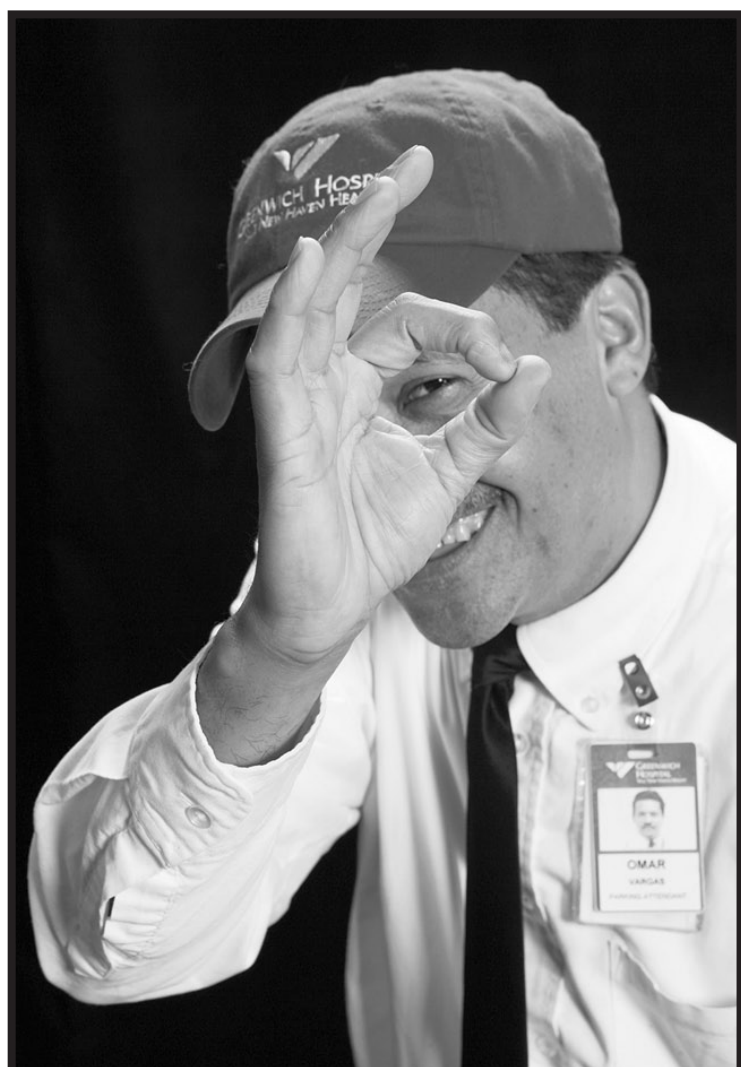
situations to simply assisting people with questions. The humble host with the sensitive disposition has been called the perfect man for the job by many who meet him.

Originally from the Dominican Republic, Mr. Vargas moved to Queens, N.Y., in 1952, where he still resides. He met his wife 31 years ago during a trip home to his native country. Today, the couple has three grown children and six grandchildren. Mr. Vargas also works two other jobs and still finds time to be with his wife and spend quality time with their children and grandchildren almost every day. During the week, his workday begins at a local college where he works from 3 to 6:30 a.m. before coming to Greenwich Hospital. On the weekends, he also works at the New York Palace Hotel as a maitre d' for weddings — a job that he has done for 26 years. For the first 11 of those years, Mr. Vargas worked for the tabloid-dubbed "Queen of Mean," the late Leona Helmsley, who originally owned the hotel.

"The key to life and the closest thing to happiness is having a good partner," Mr. Vargas said. "Family is most important and I was blessed with wonderful work opportunities when I came to this country. You have to like what you're doing. When you have passion about what you do and who you are with, life only gets better as the years progress."



Photos by Annie Watson



'Faces of Greenwich' is a photo series by photographer Annie Watson that appears in the 'Post' the second Thursday of each month. It features portraits of people from around town who are personalities that we meet in our daily lives. To nominate a person for this series, e-mail AWatsonPhoto@aol.com (Subject: FACES). Visit AnnieWatson.com for more information.

