



FEATURED MEMBER:

Gervais Hearn and the September 11th Memorial - Greenwich

Everyone remembers where they were on that day. I, like many, have a harrowing story. My family and I lived in New York City. That morning the TV was switched on. Cradling my perfect, pink, newborn baby girl, I watched - in horror -- rerun after rerun of my husband's building, next to the Twin Towers, going up in flames. Fighter jets buzzed ominously over our home at the same time.

So many of us have a story in which the ending involves a loved one arriving home safely. We have all heard the accounts of people who were late to work that morning and missed the World Trade Center destruction for any number of lucky reasons. Such is not the case for the family members of 33 individuals with ties to Greenwich, Connecticut who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001.

Gervais Hearn feels it was an incredible honor to have been charged with raising the funds necessary to build the breathtaking memorial that glistens in the sun on the point in Cos Cob Park. In the beginning of the capital campaign she said, "It was difficult because 14 years had passed since the attack." Gervais continues, "One person said to me, isn't it time we forget and move on?" She responded with heartfelt conviction that she believed it was critical that we all remember that fateful day. And, her resolve to fulfill the memorial's mission, which is to honor the memory of the 33 people from the Greenwich community who perished on September 11th, grew more resolute. The memorial is intended to be a valuable educational resource for the region, especially young people, as they learn about this important historical event.

The first phase of the campaign involved raising awareness in the community about the September 11th Memorial Board's plans. Gervais and the Board began by hosting a large, sold out concert featuring Dispatch, The Ian Murray Band and Caroline Jones, all musicians who grew up in Greenwich, and by creating and distributing beautiful Vineyard Vines scarves and ties with the Greenwich Memorial pictured on them. The founder of Vineyard Vines is from Greenwich. Then, a woman who lost a cousin in the terrorist attack, hosted a Soul Cycle spinathon for the memorial and got the town even more excited about the memorial's impact. During this time, Gervais and the Board were making individual donor calls. "The people were unbelievably generous and they all paid it forward," she said. "I would visit a mother, brother or best friend of the fallen who would quickly commit to our project's worth, then give me several more names of friends, who as well, were engaged almost immediately after they learned about the project." Junior Boards were created to raise awareness and funds at Greenwich High school and the Brunswick preparatory School, which raised \$5,000 for the cause.

Designed by Charles Hilton and Associates, the Memorial is made of hurricane proof glass and is fashioned in the image of the twin towers with an American flag motif. The two ethereal buildings

have the victims' names beautifully inscribed on them. This past September 11th the tribute was unveiled during a ribbon cutting ceremony at the breathtaking Cos Cob Park. The day was glorious; the golden sun warmed the friends and family of the departed and the townspeople that joined in the celebration of life. The rippling clear blue water of the Mianus River and vast green marshes served as a serene backdrop to the glistening memorial. Gervais was proud; she, with the Board's assistance raised \$750,000 and the vision for the memorial--"Lest We Never Forget" - has been realized.

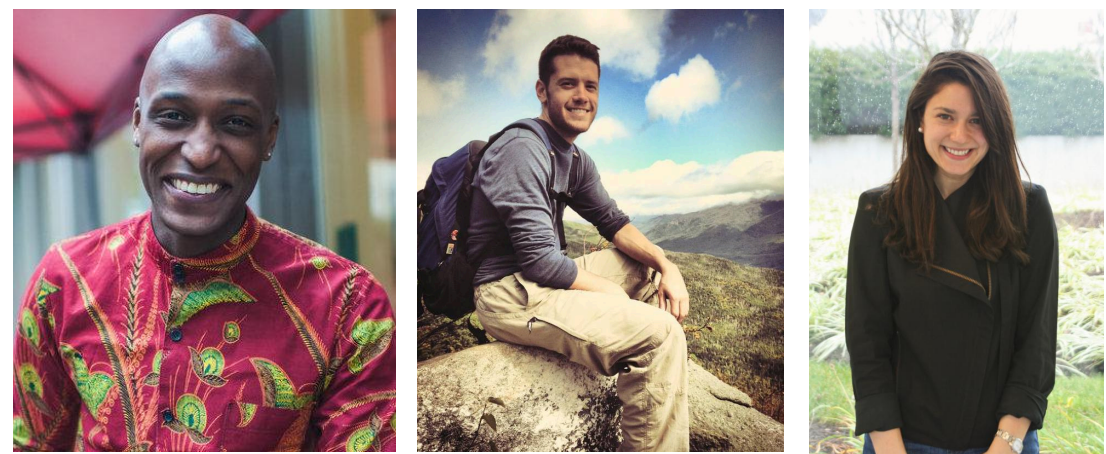
Gervais, a resident of Old Greenwich, has recently accepted a new challenge in the Development Department of the Bruce Museum. The Bruce Museum is a world-class institution highlighting art, science and natural history with more than a dozen changing exhibitions each year. The permanent galleries feature the natural sciences with exhibits that range from regional to global. The museum serves 80,000 people a year, of which 15,000 are school-age children, including a number of underserved youth from Connecticut and New York.

There are programs for every age, from Toddler Tours on Tuesday to an afterschool program for students in 9th to 12th grade who have a strong interest in art, to a Lifetime of Learning, a program structured around the premise that people with dementia often have the abilities and desire to participate in, enjoy, and benefit from mentally and visually stimulating activities. The Brucemobile Outreach programs serve Pre-K through high school students. Programs bring museum objects and live animals to the classroom and engage students in an interactive, object- and inquiry- based learning experience.

Currently on display at the Bruce are: "And Still We Rise: Race, Culture and Visual Conversations," which uses 40 colorful quilts to narrate nearly four centuries of African American history, from the first slave ships to Frederick Douglass, the Tuskegee Airmen, to the first African American president. "Fierce and Fragile: Big Cats in the Art of Robert Dallet," a celebrated French artist, highlights the beauty and allure of big cats and generates a call to protect them in the wild. The paintings were acquired from Hermès' (the fashion designer) own collection and from Dallet's son, Frederic. The exhibition marks an exciting collaboration between Hermes and Panthera, the global wild cat conservation organization.

You may be surprised, based on the fruits of her labor, to know that Gervais was a stay at home Mom until just 10 years ago. She began her transition into the nonprofit world of work by taking the Fundamentals of Fundraising course put on by AFP Fairfield County in 2010. She has also been our AFP Fairfield County devoted Board President for the last 2 years and continues her service, again this year.

Upcoming Events



Daniel Trust
Founder
Daniel Trust Foundation

RJ Mercede
*Center for Nonprofit
Excellence Associate*
Fairfield County's
Community Foundation

Alexandra Cooley
*Co-founder and Chief
Investment Officer*
Greenworks
Lending

February 10

[Evening Panel Presentation - Millennials: Revolutionizing Philanthropy](#)

Norwalk Inn and Conference Center, Norwalk

5.00-6:00 Networking
6:00-7:00 Panel discussion
7:00-7.30 Q and A

\$25 for members, \$45 for non-members. All are welcome.

The panel will feature three young philanthropic professionals including: Daniel Trust, a Rwandan survivor, who is the founder and Executive Director of the Connecticut-based Daniel Trust, which helps students from low income communities, and recognizes teachers of excellence; RJ Mercede, the Coordinator of Fairfield County's Community Foundations Giving Day and other Center for Nonprofit Excellent endeavors; and, Alexandra Cooley, the Co-founder of Greenworks Lending where she structured and managed the nation's first leveraged tax equity fund that combined commercial and residential solar leases.

There will be wine and sparkling water available as well as hot and cold appetizers.

1.5 CFRE credits

February 29 - Save the Date!

Leap Year AFP Networking Social

Little Pub, Wilton
26 Danbury Road (Just North of Walmart
and TJ Maxx)





New Members

Bob Dzurenda
Executive Director
Hall Neighborhood House

Lana Gifas
Executive Director
Women's Mentoring Network

Johnnie Malloy
Chief Development Officer
Liberation Programs, Inc.

Ann McCarthy
Director of Development & Communications
The Child & Family Guidance Center

Katie Brennan O'Leary
Assistant Director of Development
Cardinal Shehan Center

Daniel Trust
Founder & CEO
The Daniel Trust Foundation

Renewed Members

Mary Ellen Cody
Dean of Development & Communication Partnership
Gateway Community College

Linda Christensen
Development Associate
SilverSource

Jeannine Egdorf Phelan
Development Director
Child Guidance Center

Robin Hammond
Development Director
Clasp Homes

Pamela H. Hearn
NAYDO Director of Education & Membership
YMCA of the USA

Mary Jean Heller
Director of Philanthropy
Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association

Tom Long
VP Communications & Development
The Work Place

Lyn McCarthy
Executive Director
St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation

Kathleen Margaret Minarik
Director, Annual Fund
Greenwich Hospital Foundation

David Schlakman
Vice President/Executive Director
Early Learning Focus

Carole Schwartz
Corporate and Foundation Relations Manager
Fairfield County's Community Foundation

Donna Twist
Vice President of Development
Bridgeport Hospital Foundation

Jim Wright
Vice President
Greenwich Hospital Foundation

Contact Information

For more information on AFP Fairfield County, visit our website at:
<http://www.afpfairfield.org>.

For questions related to membership or to get involved with an AFP Board Committee, please contact Lorraine Gibbons at lgibbons@shehancenter.org.

For questions about events, contact Colleen Harkey at charkey@optonline.net.

For questions or comments about the newsletter, please contact AFP board member, Anne Tack ATack@Tackwriters.com.

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