

# GREEN PASTURES

The Monthly Internal Newsletter of Massey Knakal Realty Services



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



“Every mile is two in winter.”  
Author George Herbert



## BROKER MACK THAM ELECTED TO NYC NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Massey Knakal Realty Services is pleased to announce that **Director of Sales Mack Tham** – who exclusively covers the Flushing area of Queens for the firm - was recently elected to the **Chinese American Real Estate Association (CAREA) Board of Directors**. CAREA is a nonprofit organization with a membership of about 400 people in New York City’s real estate and development community. **Its mission is to promote professional advancement; create opportunities for the exchange of information, skill and experience; establish a communication channel between the governmental agencies and our real estate community; and encourage cooperation, goodwill and fair competition amongst its members.** Mr. Tham was one of three new directors appointed to the board. Prior to joining Massey Knakal, he was the **Director of Real Estate and Development at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, and was formerly the Asset Manager for a private real estate investment fund for FGHP Investment.** For the last 15 years, CAREA has played a leading role in the real estate and development community. Congratulations Mack on your outstanding community service.



*Director of Sales Mark Spinelli, left, gets in the holiday spirit. ←  
Director of Sales Mark Lively, below, on the other hand, is intent on making sure that Director of Sales Matt Giordano remembers exactly what he wants for Christmas. ↓*



# MONTHLY INTERVIEW - IVAN PETROVIC

Sales Support - Research, Manhattan Office



## **You were born and raised in Serbia & Montenegro (former Yugoslavia). What was that like?**

It was very interesting any way you look at it. I've lived through two wars and Serbia's economic collapse, but I can also say that growing up in Belgrade (my hometown) was the greatest experience. I was surrounded by great family and friends that I keep in with touch regularly.

## **You came to New York City in 2000, and eventually obtained a Bachelor's degree in International Finance from Baruch College. What made you make the giant move to America?**

I have two uncles and couple of cousins scattered throughout New York. Thanks to them I ended up here. I was 20, just finished high school and was about to get drafted in the Army. Things in Serbia were still uncertain as we just ended a war in Kosovo and it was a safer option if I continued my education somewhere else. Thankfully everything worked out.

## **Most people probably don't know this but before you arrived at Massey Knakal you used to work at a beauty salon. Why the hair business?**

That was my first job in New York. I needed to get a job but no one would hire me without papers. At the time I didn't have a social security number either. My cousin knew the owner of the hair salon and I got a job there. I stayed for two years and eventually got to a manager position. It was not the best job but it got me through.

## **What is the most challenging part of your job here?**

Getting to where I am right now. When I started working for Shimon four years ago I didn't know anything about real estate, about the business world or working in an office. But look at me now!

## **What is the most valuable business knowledge you've gained from working closely with Managing Director/Partner Shimon Shkury?**

Shimon came up with the concept of goof off time ... 15 minutes during the work day when we don't do any work but tell jokes. It didn't work out for him because phone rang after five minutes and he had to pick up, but I liked the idea of taking some time in the middle of the day to rest. Besides that, team work, team work, team work!

## **When did you learn to speak English? Do you still prefer to speak Serbian?**

I think I still need couple of more years of learning. I still have trouble with slang. You have to ask questions. I definitely feel more comfortable speaking Serbian if I had choice between the two.

## **What is the biggest misconception about you?**

Some people from this office think that I work for Serbian mafia, and smuggle body parts and iPhones to Serbia. I just want to say that it's only partially true. :)

## **What's with all the knick knacks on your desk?**

They are for good luck... and a good conversation starter when people come to chit chat and ask questions about postage, even though I don't look like Harold one bit and usually don't know the answer. People's favorite is the Napoleon Dynamite talking doll, compliments of Patrick O'Malley. There are around 20 phrases from the movie and I know every one of them by heart.

*Which employee would you like to see interviewed in the next issue of Green Pastures?*

*Email Kari Neering at [kneering@masseyknakal.com](mailto:kneering@masseyknakal.com) no later than December 15 with your suggestions.*

### EVENTS

12/10 - Executive  
Committee Meeting, 5 p.m.,  
Manhattan  
12/12 - Partners Meeting,  
5 p.m., Manhattan  
12/14 - Department Heads  
Meeting, 2 p.m., Manhattan  
12/20 - Holiday Party! 6  
p.m., The University Club

### ANNIVERSARIES

Tom Donovan - December (9)  
John Gallagher - 12/4 (1)  
Karl Brumback - 12/5 (2)  
David Raciti - 12/6 (3)  
Ken Hillman - 12/6 (3)  
Stephen Safina - 12/11 (1)

### BIRTHDAYS

Anthony Giannuzzi - 12/5  
Paul Smadbeck - 12/5  
John Ciraulo - 12/7  
Victor Sozio - 12/8  
Peter Schubert - 12/8  
Craig Waggner - 12/9  
Geoffrey Bailey - 12/13  
Eugene Kim - 12/15  
Billy Simons - 12/17  
Tennille Duncan - 12/20

Please submit your opinion or perspective regarding any issue related to maximizing the company's best interests (100-125 words) to Kari Neering, Director of Public Relations, at 212-660-7735 or [kneering@masseyknakal.com](mailto:kneering@masseyknakal.com).