

St. Asaph Square Newsletter

*May and June
2015*

St. Asaph Square Website has lots of news and information for you.
Check it out at <http://www.st-asaph-square.com>

Board President's Report *Debbie Bowman, President*



Hello Neighbors,

Things are more exciting than ever at Saint Asaph Square. Now that spring is finally here, our landscaping should be even more amazing as soon as pending projects are completed. The pool recently opened so we will be able to enjoy more of our common areas.

Our renovation and updating research project is moving along; thanks to the work of some very industrious Design Committee members. We should thank them for providing so much information and assistance to the Board of Directors. I hope you have been able to participate in some of the events related to this project that have taken place in the last few months. Renovating would benefit all of us because our joint home would become a more appealing and comfortable place to live. Not to mention that an updated, refreshed look also would increase the value of our individual and collective investments.

Even now, we all need to do our best to maintain an attractive appearance at Saint Asaph Square - from our entry doors to the garage to all common areas. The presentation (maintenance, cleanliness, etc.) of our building impacts how visitors - friends, family, realtors

and prospective buyers - see our property and our community.

In order to ensure our property is maintained in the best possible condition, if there are any issues, repairs, etc. at Saint Asaph Square - please bring them to the attention of Serry, Patrick and the Board quickly, and with as much detail as possible, so we can tackle and resolve the situation expeditiously.

I encourage you to visit the Saint Asaph Square website at <http://www.st-asaph-square.com> often to stay as up to date as possible with building activities and other news. We have recently been using the *Owners/Residents* tab to provide information on the research and events relating to the renovation project. The website also provides other helpful and relevant information about Saint Asaph Square and Alexandria. Please let me know what else you might like to see there.

Thanks again to all of our committee members who volunteer so much of their time to make our community a wonderful place to live.

Thanks to our current and veteran servicemen and women as we celebrate Memorial Day and Flag Day.

Have a great summer.

Welcome Wagon



Debby Palmer-Mills, Chair

A warm welcome to our two newest residents,
Gwen Arnesen in Unit 333 and
Amber Keyser in Unit 329

Landscape Committee



Bev Keane, Chair
and *Barbara Ballentine*

Thanks to Nancy Arnesen for her donation which allowed us to provide flowers for the pool planters. Thanks to Shari Keefer and Leo for planting the flowers. Mr. Serry and the Landscape Committee will meet with the new *Advantage* foreman to discuss tree plantings and removals, and other landscaping issues.



Social Committee

Ginny Long, Chair



Cookout time!

**Come Sunday, May 31 at 4:00
on the St. Asaph patio**

Bring your hamburgers or hot dogs, buns, and a side dish or dessert to share, and we're set for a great time. We'll have all the condiments, lettuce and tomato slices, pickles, sodas, wine and beer.

A couple more grills are needed -- please email Ginny if you can lend one (vlongmath@aol.com)



Ralph Rosenbaum, maître d' of our popular **Dinner Out** events, planned a lovely evening to *Bistrot Royal* in April, and he'll be cooking up another one this summer. Stay tuned – they're always fun and a great way to explore the wonderful restaurants we have in the area.



Attention please -- a Yard Sale is coming!

Shari Keefer has kindly offered to coordinate the event for late September, so this is a good time to start gathering things you no longer want or need.

Happy Hour meets at about 5:30 on Friday evenings outside on the St. Asaph patio. Come for a relaxing time with friends and friends-to-be.

Design Committee



Ginny Long & Shari Keefer, Co-Chairs
Committee Members Deb Bowman, Kathy Helfert,
Celeste Johnston, and Karen Leydet

Our committee has wonderful news to share – the Board has voted to accept our recommendation for the designer for the redecoration project, Ms. Nancy Colbert of *Design Partners*. Nancy is highly qualified, very well regarded by her peers in the Washington metropolitan design industry, and brings a wealth of commercial experience in large scale condo and hospitality design projects. Nancy was one of three designers who gave presentations to the Board and residents earlier this month, and we appreciate the interest and involvement shown by those who were able to attend.

The next step is for the Board to decide the scope of the project and the budget. The Design Committee is developing our recommendations for those, and it will present them to the Board at the Special Meeting on Thursday, June 4. The Special Meeting, open to all residents, is for the full discussion of the options. (This open meeting will soon be further publicized with emails to residents and posted flyers.) The Board will then decide on the means of financing. Things are certainly moving along, and we are looking forward to productive weeks ahead.

For background information on the design project, please check the Saint Asaph Square website *Owners/Residents tab* which has the Component Spreadsheet and the self-guided Walk-Around Itinerary.



We needed to replace two broken umbrellas for the patio area. The company that we bought the hunter green umbrellas from doesn't offer that color anymore, so we chose a cheerful blue stripe for the separate patio areas. They should be arriving soon, and we hope you like them. (If you're the last one using a pool or patio umbrella at the end of the day, please close and tie it so it can't come open. In the event of storms or strong winds, this keeps our umbrellas undamaged.)

Getting to Know You...

By Mary Ann Radebach

For each newsletter issue, Mary Ann selects a resident or staff member to interview. The spotlight this time shines on a fascinating lady indeed....



Yaga Bernhardt

There can be times in life when a single event significantly changes the path that we are on. Call it fate, coincidence, luck, or whatever; life is never the same after that moment. For 16 year-old Yaga Bernhardt, one such moment came as she and her 21 year-old sister were sitting on their suitcases, with all their possessions, at a railroad station in Warsaw, Poland. It was two months after the Warsaw Uprising began in 1944, near the end of WWII, and the German High Command decreed that anyone who could walk must leave Warsaw. German troops had already converged on the city and were preparing to destroy it in retaliation for the uprising.

Yaga was the youngest of five children; four girls and a boy. One sister was with the resistance of the Polish Underground State, her brother was in London with the

Polish Armed Forces of the West, her father was dead and her mother stayed behind living in a cellar to care for her other sister who was suffering from typhus. Barbara, sitting next to Yaga, had tuberculosis. Yaga was still healthy, but the future did not look bright for the girls as they were waiting to board a train for a forced labor camp (or worse).

Fate intervened when two young Nazi soldiers saluted them and said that their commander had sent them to present the girls with an opportunity to follow the German transport rather than take the train to the camp, but their decision must be immediate. Barbara did not understand what the soldiers were saying, but Yaga, who had studied German in school, did and made the decision for them by picking up her suitcase and following the men.

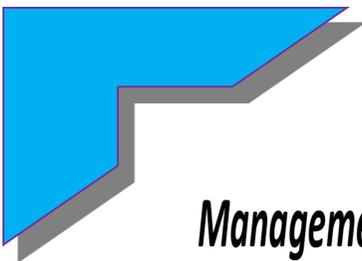
The commander of the transport was Austrian with the German Army who directed the destruction of Warsaw. He showed Yaga a magazine with Hitler on the cover and asked what she thought of him. Yaga reasoned that if he was asking, then she had the freedom to tell him the truth, so she answered that she thought Hitler was a monster. The commander said nothing, but later told the girls that his unit was being assigned to the Eastern Front to fight the Russians, where casualties were high. For unknown reasons, the Commander fed them and found a place for them to spend the night in safety.

The following morning a soldier knocked on their door and told them to join the commander for breakfast. He had a proposal for them. His mother lived in Vienna and he could arrange for them to stay with her until the end of the war. The sisters declined the offer; eager to see their family again, and were permitted to board a train to the next Polish town where they stayed for a few days before deciding what to do. Yaga, still a teenager, wanted to go to the Polish town of Sierpc where their family had roots and she felt it would be safe. Barbara declined to go with her and instead went to Krakow where she joined their older sister with the resistance. The war ended and Yaga's family reunited; but freedom did not come as the Soviets occupied Poland. Yaga returned to school, learned to type and held a clerical position in the local City Hall.

Then another life changing moment occurred when she attended a dance with her brother and met a Danish Merchant Mariner. He was a naturalized American citizen and they continued to write to each until they married in Poland when she was 21 years old. Soon their son Tommy was born; however, the Soviets would not let Yaga and Tommy leave the country until 1953 after Stalin died and travel restrictions were relaxed.

After a trip to Copenhagen to see Tommy's grandmother, the family settled in New Jersey. Daughter Karen was born six years after Tommy. Yaga worked at Macy's selling furs and jewelry. Time passed, the children grew up, Yaga and her husband divorced. After Karen moved to Alexandria, VA, Yaga moved also. She is now grandmother to three boys living in Texas with her son Tommy and his wife, and has one grandson here in Alexandria with her daughter Karen and son-in-law. Yaga has lived at St. Asaph Square for eight years. She regularly attends the St. Asaph Friday night "Happy Hour", can be seen walking about the neighborhood for daily exercise and attends St. Mary's church. She is an avid bridge player and was a former tennis champion.

As Yaga considers her life, accomplished children and loving grandchildren, she reflects back to Ober Lieutenant Rudi Hoffbauer. Although he was the enemy, he had a humane moment that likely saved the lives of her and her sister by keeping them from boarding that train bound for the camps back in 1944. A few years ago Yaga tried to find Hoffbauer or his family to say thank you. She wrote to the Austrian Embassy but received no answer. Why things happen, nobody really knows for sure, but Yaga recognizes that for some reason, she was meant to carry on and have a long, prosperous life.



Management's Corner

Patrick M. Mazzei
Community Manager

HAPPY SUMMER ~ 2015!

What ever happened to the spring season in Washington? It seems that this season is becoming shorter and shorter! The area weather seems to jump from 60 degrees to 90 degrees virtually overnight. With the Memorial Day holiday just around the corner it's time to start thinking about swimming, outdoor summer activities, picnics and barbecuing! I'm sure that many will seek relief from the warmer weather at the Saint Asaph Pool. The Pool season actually begins early this year. On May 23, 2015 (Memorial Day weekend) the pool will open for the summer. If you haven't received a copy of the pool hours and the rules and regulations, please stop by the office and see Mr. Serry for a copy.

I'd like to take this opportunity to provide a few reminders in regards to the above. The *American Pool Company* has been awarded the contract for the 2015 season. This is their 2nd season at Saint Asaph Square. As a reminder, please remember to bring your pool passes and surrender them to the pool guard upon entering the facility. Entrance to the swimming pool should be made through the bathhouse main gate and all residents are required to shower before entering the water.

There is nothing like the flavor of grilled food! The barbecuing areas (residents are to supply their own grills) are located on the plaza deck in three separate locations. Two areas on the Northeast side of the Plaza and one area in the Northwest plaza near the handicapped bath facility. Please remember to clean up after you use your grill. Never leave burning embers unattended. If your grill is in disrepair, please contact Mr. Serry for removal and disposal. Please clean your grill and store it after every each use. If your grill is in disrepair and you wish to have it removed, contact Serry in the office.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **Hoses and ducts** ~ Just by way of a friendly reminder, the new policy to have washing machine hoses changed and HVAC ducts cleaned is in full force and effect. Please check the website (or in *Reminders* column at the end of this newsletter) for some suggested contractors that perform these types of services. Please send verification of compliance to the site Management Office or to Cardinal Management's corporate offices in Woodbridge once you have the service completed. All owners must have this work completed by September 2015.
- **Bicycle Storage** ~ The Association provides bike racks for the use of all residents. The racks are becoming overcrowded, and some bikes are in disrepair. The Board would like to remind residents that all bikes must be contained inside the rack space and that no bike should be stored on the common area of the building. Bicycles that are chained to rails and not in rack space will be removed by the Association.
- **Summer Hours** ~ Cardinal Management Group's Corporate Office hours will change beginning June 1, though Labor Day. The office hours will be from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday – Thursday, and from 8:00 am - 12:00 Noon on Fridays.

If you have any questions about the goings on around the community, please feel free to shoot me an email or call me directly.



Yahya M. Serry
On-site Manager

A Tour Around the Square

As the demographics of the building’s residents continue to change, it is necessary to effect changes that meet the needs of all residents. With the advice of management, the Board has, therefore, updated the lobby entry locks. The locks, while in ADA compliance, are added value to the building. (Please don’t use just the key itself to pull open the doors, as doing so will damage the pins in the lock and result in frequent and expensive service calls.) The doors have also been adjusted and treated with door sweeps and trims to reduce the wear and tear to the entry rugs and to reduce draft to the lobbies.

Preventive Maintenance Service has been done to all the common area HVAC units prior to changing over to AC. As a reminder, please make sure your unit HVAC systems are serviced before changing over to AC. This will not only help prolong the life of your systems, but will also help prevent leaks that may bring unnecessary expense to you and to the association.

You must have noticed the new look at all the unit patio gates along Pitt, Saint Asaph and Green Streets. The gate numbering has added an elegant look to the building. Thanks for the dedicated work of the Design Committee who worked very hard to make it happen. The gates have also been repaired and painted as we get ready to Spring to Summer. Thumbs up for our onsite staff!

We are off to a good start with the pool. All repairs and needed maintenance have been completed. Pool passes have been made and distributed. Cooperation by residents with pool passes distribution has been great. However, some residents may be a little disappointed for not having Ana this year, as she is no longer with *American Pool*. “Be rest assured that *American Pool* will give you a matching substitute,” a promise made by the company’s Vice President.

Wishing you all a wonderful Pool season.



Saint Asaph Square website has ***SO much!*** You can access forms and rules through the *Owners/Residents* tab, and find a calendar of events there. You can find links to help you move around the DC metro area on the *Neighborhood Links* tab, weather, and more.

Check it out at

<http://www.st-asaph-square.com>.

Odds and Ends



Memorial Day



Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day for the placing of flowers over the graves of the fallen, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of our country. Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War and was designated as May 30 because no battles of that war happened on that date.



Our monthly Board meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM South Pitt Street lobby.

The next Board meeting is Tuesday, June 16.

The meetings are the place for residents to learn all that is going on in the building and to voice questions, comments, concerns, complaints, and appreciation.



Reminders



If you're the last one using a pool or patio umbrella, please close and tie it so it can't come open. In the event of storms or strong winds, this keeps our umbrellas undamaged.

- Please ensure that all trash and recycling items are placed in the receptacles in the trash room and that trash and chute rooms are kept free of non-bagged waste. *Boxes must be flattened before placing in receptacles.* Note: Single Stream Recycling is in effect. Recyclable material can be placed in the marked recycling bins and does not need to be separated by type as before.
- *Residents are reminded not to park in designated parking spaces unless they have the owner's prior approval.* Visitors who use the outdoor visitors' parking spots need to register their vehicles with the office. If the office is closed, please put a sign on the dashboard. The community reserves the right to tow non-registered vehicles.
- *There is a 'NO SMOKING' policy in common areas of St. Asaph Square, including open air balconies.*



- *We have a little library on the 3rd floor of the South Pitt Street side, organized and maintained by Van Keane. (If locked, your key to the building will open it.)*

- Here's a handy link to the *City of Alexandria* site- you can submit online requests for the city to do something. Click here and let your voice be heard:

<http://request.alexandriava.gov/CCC/#tab=Find>

- **Suggested contractors to change washing machine hoses and clean HVAC ducts:**

Michael and Sons Services (800-948-6455)

Washing machine hose replacement and vent cleaning and repair

Kramer and Sons Plumbing (703-360-6400)

Washing machine hose replacement

Crystal Clean Duct Service (1-844-223-8287)

Dryer vent duct cleaning and repair;

Justin Vair-Op, Manager

All Star Duct Cleaning (703-303-8714)

Dryer vent duct cleaning and repair

FH Furr Plumbing and Heating (703-491-1234)

Washing machine hose replacement

Ductz (703-574-4554)

Dryer duct vent cleaning and repair

All Season Plumbing and HVAC (703-385-1450)

Washing machine hose replacement

Able Plumbing (703-551-0644)

Washing machine hose replacement

To submit an item for the July/August Newsletter, please send to vlongmath@aol.com

by July15.

Serry's Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday and Friday:

8:30 A.M – 5:30 P.M.

Thursday: 10:30 A.M. – 7:30 P.M.

For emergencies during office hours, please contact Cardinal at 703-569-5797.

**For after-hours emergencies,
please call 1-866-370-2989**

CARDINAL MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC

4330 Prince William Parkway, Suite 201

Woodbridge, VA 22192

Office Phone Number: 703-569-5797

FAX Number: 803-866-3156

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 1-866-370-2989

NOTE: Cardinal Management Group's Corporate Office hours will change beginning June 1, though Labor Day. The office hours will be:

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday – Thursday

8:00 am - 12:00 Noon on Fridays

MEET THE TEAM

Board Members

Debbie Bowman, President

Bev Keane, Vice President

Shari Keefer, Treasurer

Ralph Rosenbaum, Secretary

Jack Burton, Member at Large

Board email:

saintasaphsquareboard@gmail.com

Cardinal Management

Patrick M. Mazzei, CMCA, AMS

Agent for the Association

4330 Prince William Parkway, Suite 201

Woodbridge, VA 22192

p.mazzei@cardinalmanagementgroup.com

Front Office Staff

Yahya M. Serry, CMCA

On-Site Manager

St. Asaph Square Condominiums

801 South Pitt Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

703-683-5858

Stasaph801@verizon.net

Veronica Reyes, Housekeeping staff

Leodan Reyes, Maintenance staff

To minimize printing costs, our goal is to provide our newsletter electronically as much as possible.

- If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletters via *email*, please submit your email address to Serry at Stasaph801@verizon.net.
- If you would like to receive the newsletters using our *website*, just log onto <http://www.st-asaph-square.com> and go to the *Owners/Residents'* tab where the newsletters are posted (please see Serry for the password you will need to access that page). Deb Bowman, creator of the website, will be happy to assist you if you have any problems or questions.

If you **do not** have a computer and would like hard copies of the newsletters to be delivered to you, please notify Serry.

Saint Asaph Square Newsletter team.

Ginny Long, Editor

Yahya Serry, Production and Distribution

Please note: This newsletter is for the purpose of disseminating information that may be useful, important to know, or interesting to residents; it is not the appropriate place to air dissatisfactions. The editor and Board reserve the right to control content of the newsletter. Residents with complaints or dissatisfactions should please direct them to the Board, either in person or in writing. Such issues are then brought up and discussed during the *Community Forum* session of every monthly Board meeting.