

## ***SOUTH SIDE SLOPES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION***



**Lisa Ceoffe speaks about trees.**

### **April Meeting:**

Our Board President Brad Palmisiano began the meeting at 7:15 PM. Nineteen neighbors were present.

Joe Ciccola, chairperson of our Beautification Committee, gave the April date for tree planting on the River Trail, and the May dates for garden cleanups and planting.

Fr. Don Ware and Peter Kreuthmeier gave a brief update of the Elm Street projects:

- Baker Engineer Co. has completed the GIS report on Elm St. steps
- the LED Lighting Project for the 18<sup>th</sup> and Josephine Sts steps is progressing

- a Slopes Pylon Marker Project at the Josephine and 18<sup>th</sup> Sts triangle garden is underway

Peter also spoke to the Josephine Street repairs, which we will be addressing soon.

Brad introduced Lisa Ceoffe, Pittsburgh City Urban Forester. Lisa outlined what the city's 'Treevitalize' program consists of, including:

- planting new trees and dealing with "stressed" trees;
- pruning and caring for public space trees;
- revitalizing "stressed" trees;
- planting trees in empty lots;
- and the "tree tender" program.

She described the goal of keeping Pittsburgh a "green" city and planting 20,000 new trees by 2012. We will be seeking her help in replacing trees on Josephine Street, which are very "stressed." For further details call Lisa Ceoffe at 412-362-6360.

Next Brad introduced two manufacturing reps who talked about LED lighting for public and private use. Pittsburgh will soon be investing in LED lighting for all of its public lighting such as street lighting. LED lighting saves energy, reduces maintenance, and gives a better quality of lighting – easier on the eyes and little "wasted" lighting. Their presentation was both informative and "enlightening."

Fr. Don Ware, C.P



## StepTrek 2009 Committee News

The 2009 StepTrek Committee is pleased to announce the date for this year's Trek. It will be held on **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** from Noon to 4pm at the UPMC South Side parking lot on 21<sup>st</sup> & Josephine Streets.

Our Honorary Chairperson is Brian O'Neill, writer for the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. We already have the support of UPMC South Side Hospital, Rudberg Law Offices, and Carlson McGinley Real Estate.

The committee has been working very hard since January. The Black Route has been preliminarily mapped out. The Gold Route will be mapped in early May.

The StepTrek committee has plans to be more "green" by arranging for reusable water bottles and water stations, rather than individual water bottles.

In the next month or so, sponsorship will be requested and we'll have more to report.

Anyone interested in helping with the Trek committee, please contact Bev at [Bev.Boggio@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:Bev.Boggio@SouthSideSlopes.org).

The ever changing event is off to a great start! This will be the 9<sup>th</sup> StepTrek, and it will have a Black & Gold theme, thanks to our very successful sports teams.

by Bev Boggio

## Board Update

The SSSNA would like to thank Matt Schaefer and Peggy Sullivan for their service on the Board. Both Matt and Peggy have resigned their positions on the board but will remain active in the SSSNA. According to the SSSNA Bylaws, the remaining board members will appoint replacements to serve the remainder of these terms. Anyone who is interested in learning about being on the board, please contact board president Brad Palmisiano at [brad.palmisiano@southsideslopes.org](mailto:brad.palmisiano@southsideslopes.org) or any board member.

### Current SSSNA Board Officers:

Brad Palmisiano – President  
Misi Bielich – Vice President  
Joseph Balaban – Treasurer  
Paul Lorincy – Secretary

### Board Members:

Joseph Ciccola  
Peter Kreuthmeier  
Denise Fillip  
Johno Prascak  
Fr. Don Ware

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Board Opportunities

The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association has two openings on our board. If you are interested in serving on our board, please contact any current member of the Board.

## Garden Maintenance

It is the time of the year when our gardens start to grow. Regrettably, the flowers aren't the only things that grow. We need someone who would be willing to cut the grass at our Brosville garden and/or at our Mission Street Memorial. If you are able to help us out, please contact our garden chair, Joe Ciccola at [joe.ciccola@southsideslopes.org](mailto:joe.ciccola@southsideslopes.org).

## South Side Home Tour Needs Volunteers May 16, 2009

### Tour Home Station Description

You will be stationed in a home and help direct tour goers through the homes and ensure that they respect the rules of the tour. All volunteers are asked to attend an orientation, that morning, held at City Theatre (1300 Bingham Street) at 9:30 a.m. Morning shift volunteers will then proceed to their assigned homes for a tour of the house before beginning their shift. At the end of your shift, you may take the tour. Afternoon volunteers will attend the orientation then tour until reporting at their assigned homes at 1:00pm.

If you wish to volunteer, please contact Jennifer Strang of the SSLDC by May 8, 2009. You will then receive more specific information regarding your responsibilities closer to the date of the tour. Also, please feel free to forward the information on to friends and family as volunteer groups are also welcome. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer Strang at either 412-481-0651 or [jennifer@southsidepgh.com](mailto:jennifer@southsidepgh.com)

## Thank you to These New and Renewing Members

Steve and Sharon Antonelli  
Ken Bombara  
Tina Javorsky  
Anthony Navarro  
Bob and Betty Kripp  
Kathleen Miller  
Liz Samsa  
Denise Philip  
Fred and Judi Berner  
George and Sally Krauss  
Nancy & Anthony Lardo  
Patricia & Theodore Todd  
Jessica Fondy  
Alfred and Eileen Diorio  
Mary and Dennis Olup  
Millie and Emery Karolski  
Margaret Buck  
Paul and Dawn Lorincy  
Brad Palmisiano  
Matt Schaefer  
Peggy Sullivan  
Ronald Lotz

## Please Join for 2009

With your donations, we are able to keep neighbors informed and connected.

SSSNA Membership is \$5 and runs from January, 09 to December, 09. Thank you for joining us!

<p align="center"><b>SSSNA Membership 2009</b></p> <p>Please mail \$5 to: SSSNA P.O.Box 4248, Pgh., PA 15203 <i>Or bring it to the next meeting</i></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____ _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Slopes Interests _____</p> <p>Amount enclosed _____</p> <p><i>Save a stamp, please just email me the newsletter each month. Check here</i></p>
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## What's Your Slopes Story?

My name is Tami Dixon. I'm a local actor, Producing Artistic Director of Bricolage Theatre and proud resident of the South Side Slopes. Recently, I was one of 4 artists, nationally, to be awarded the prestigious Fox Foundation Fellowship in the category of Extraordinary Potential. In conjunction with City Theatre I will embark on a journey to develop *SlopeStories*, a theatre piece based on interviews and workshops conducted with community members who live on the Slopes.

After years of being an actor-for-hire I began to develop a deeper sense of social responsibility to my work that is transforming my scope and mission as a theatre artist. *SlopeStories* will allow me to take a more formal approach to this new vision—to directly connect my work to the people and community in which I live. The stories that come from these hills are full of great pride and sacrifice, at once universal and uniquely Pittsburgh. It is these stories I am interested in exploring for this fellowship. What are the experiences that shaped these industrious people? Who were their influences? How did economic opportunity affect their decision-making and how did the ever-evolving technology, and landscape, transform their lives?

In order for this project to develop with integrity I need you. I'm looking to connect with community members with a history in the Slopes. I'm looking for people who grew up on the Slopes, people with parents still living on the Slopes, people whose parents spoke only their native tongue, extended families

living on the Slopes, families who owned businesses on the Slopes, people who have lived their whole lives on the Slopes, men who worked at the J & L, women married to men who worked at the J & L, people involved in the Slopes steps construction, vets living on the Slopes, unique residents of the Slopes, lessons in cooking traditional dishes from the various ethnic communities that made up the Slopes; in essence I'm looking for anyone with a story to share.

I am inspired by the links between people, communities, families, and cultures that compose the roots of theatre. Studying the motives of people and reflecting on behaviors help to build understanding of the human condition, and this reflective process inspires me both as a person and an actor. I am inspired by the passions that motivate people to live without fear. The "un-snuffable" human spirit, the drive that provides people the resolve to thrive despite unimaginable conditions - this inspires me. But mostly, I am inspired by people who live in service to others, people whose successes are measured not by what they get, but by their contributions. With this fellowship I can make good on a commitment to contribute an inspiring piece that tells the stories of Pittsburgh's Everyman/woman.

If you are interested in participating in this community project please contact me at [tami@webbricolage.org](mailto:tami@webbricolage.org)



South Side Slopes  
Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 4248  
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[www.StepTrek.org](http://www.StepTrek.org)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PITTSBURGH PA  
PERMIT NO 603

**Mark Your Calendars  
Step Trek  
October 4, 2009**

**Summer Celebration  
July 7, 2009  
Monastery  
7:00**

**Join us on May 12 and  
June 9 for our General  
Meetings at 7:00**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

