

**SOUTH SIDE SLOPES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

## June Meeting

Joe Balaban, SSSNA Executive Board treasurer, led the meeting on this warm Tuesday evening in June at St. Paul's Retreat Center. Seventeen neighbors attended. Chuck Half from the Mayor's Office was here.

Joe explained that our Board President Brad Palmisiano, Vice President Misi Bielich, Board members Peter Kreuthmeier and Mark Zalenchak and Elm Street Manger, Judy Dyda were in Johnstown PA attending an Awards' Dinner given by the PA Downtown Center, the only statewide nonprofit dedicated solely to the revitalization of the commonwealth's 'core' communities. Our steel map, the scrim designed by Loysen + Kreuthmeier Architects, and the garden at Monastery and Brosville won a 'Townie Award' a statewide recognition for improvements to a public space.



Joe then updated the progress of the work on our public gardens which has been taking place and will continue thru June. We are also sprucing up Josephine Street with tree trimming and grass cutting.

Joe reported that the Board has received a \$2500 Grant to attend a training program run by Duquesne's Non Profit Leadership Program. This program helps Boards function more efficiently and plan better.

Joe then introduced two new Board members... Welcome aboard Aaron Sukenik and Mark Zalenchak.

Fr. Don Ware then gave a quick update on the continuing work of the Elm Street Committee. The projects include:

- LED lighting for the 18<sup>th</sup> St Steps (past the RR trestle);
- A 10 ft high cor-ten pylon with solar powered LED lighting at the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Josephine Streets. This marker will welcome passersby to our Slopes neighborhood;
- Continued planning to upgrade South Side Park.

Joe finally reported that UUBU6 was refused its request for a zoning variance to build a deck top dining space on its Pius St. restaurant.

Joe then introduced Corey O'Connor from Congressman Mike Doyle's office. Corey described for us various funding programs that the Congressman's office can help Pittsburghers to apply for, including neighborhood groups. These programs include:

- o Community Development Block Grants, related to tearing down vacant buildings;
- o Appropriations Funds for community projects over \$100,000;
- o Stimulus Package grants for infrastructure projects;
- o Other Funds related to veterans affairs, HUD and social security.

Corey can be contacted at 412-261-1983.

Finally Joe Balaban introduced Tami Dickson, who recently became a Slopes resident. Tami has received a theatre grant to compose a theatrical documentary telling the stories of South Siders who have lived and worked here over the years. She will include stories of former steel workers, housewives, retirees, church people and main street business owners. What was it like growing up in the South Side? How did South Siders have fun? What was school like? What Church did you attend?

These stories will be folded into a theatre presentation to which all of us will be invited. We never want to lose our memories or our stories of what influenced us and made us the Pittsburghers we are.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.



## StepTrek 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.

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.

Bev Boggio

## Gardens

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, both the Greeley and Barry St. gardens were prepared and planted through the generosity of Fed Ex employees. The Pennsylvania Conservancy offered their time to beautify our neighborhood. All of us in the SSSNA organization offer them many thanks. The 18<sup>th</sup> Street Garden was later blitzed on June 27<sup>th</sup> by slopes volunteers. Maintenance is ongoing throughout the season and we can use your help. Please offer your assistance by contacting the SSSNA or by joining the Beautification Committee.

Joseph Ciccola



## Board Update

The SSSNA would like to welcome Aaron Sukenik and Mark Zalenchak to our Board.

Aaron lives on 23rd Street and is a recent graduate of Pitt's Graduate School of Public Policy. He recently worked on Natalia Rudiak's successful campaign for Pittsburgh City Council in the 4th District to replace Councilman Jim Motznik. Aaron also worked in the office of City Councilman Bruce Kraus.

Mark, a Monastery Street resident, has been active in the Association since moving to the Slopes from San Francisco several years ago. You may have met him at our many gatherings, or staffing the StepTrek water station at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery. While not tending to his 12 foot high sunflowers at home, you'll find him at Children's Hospital, keeping their food service operation in top shape.

Misi Bielich

### Current SSSNA Board Officers:

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

### Board Members:

Joseph Ciccola  
Denise Fillip  
Peter Kreuthmeier  
Johno Prascak  
Aaron Sukenik  
Fr. Don Ware  
Mark Zalenchak

## Summer Projects

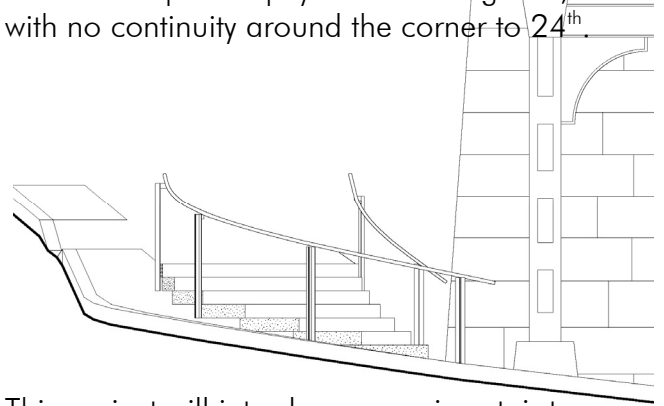
### Pylon

Later on this summer, another element of the South Side Slopes signage program will be installed at the 18<sup>th</sup> and Josephine Triangle Garden. Materials and lighting will be similar to those now in place on the Monastery/Brosville project, though in this case, we will use only solar power.

The Pylon is a celebration of our vertical neighborhood, and its prismatic form, a symbol of Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle. Its shape is revealed with the motion of the viewer. A sloping tree-line graphic echoes the neighborhood's hillside setting, while other elements describe the postcard view of houses and steps. Roof forms tilt outward in bas-relief, and dimensional steps and text provide added shadow play during daylight hours. At night, concealed LED lighting shines through openings in the cor-ten steel plate. A highly-engineered solar panel (not shown...it's a surprise...the first of its kind) will run the lighting at full brightness, even during long winter nights.

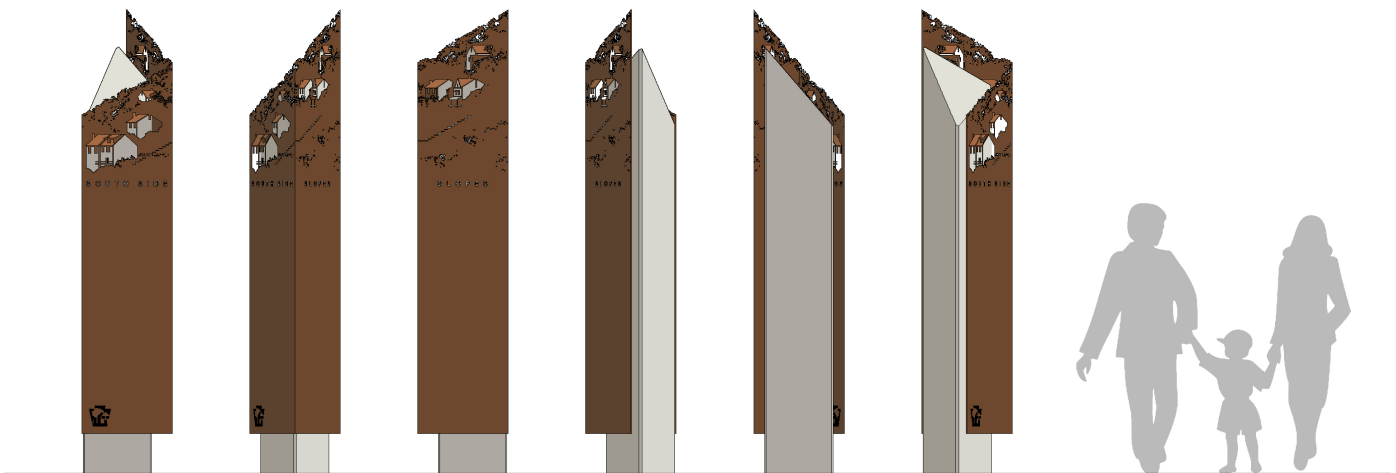
### 24<sup>th</sup> and Josephine

Also this summer, we will begin work on re-establishing pedestrian connections to the Slopes, beginning with the corner of 24<sup>th</sup> and Josephine. Presently, the Josephine Street sidewalk stops abruptly at a retaining wall, with no continuity around the corner to 24<sup>th</sup>.



This project will introduce a curving stair to connect the two, with planting beds on either side. Future work in this area will include refurbishing the sidewalk below the railroad bridge, and reclaiming a fenced-off area in the public right-of-way to return it to use as a city sidewalk. TBI Contracting, Inc. will be constructing the project, with completion expected by the end of July.

Peter Kreuthmeier





## Volunteer Opportunities

### Gardeners

### Tree Tenders

### Clean-Up Volunteers

No experience necessary!

Additional information is on our website

Please contact us by:

Phone: 412-488-0486

Email: [info@southsideslopes.org](mailto:info@southsideslopes.org)

Web: [www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.org)

## Upcoming Events

### Summer Celebration

(new time and location)

July 14, 2009

6:30pm

Games 'n At

2010 Josephine Street

(no meetings in August)

### General Meeting

September 8, 2009

7:00pm

St. Paul of the Cross Monastery

Retreat Center

148 Monastery Avenue

### South Side Park Event

September 12, 2009

Invasive species cleanup

Picnic Lunch

Details forthcoming...

### StepTrek

October 4, 2009

Noon – 4:00pm

UPMC South Side Parking Lot

Josephine and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets

## Please Join for 2009

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

SSSNA Membership is \$5 and runs from January 2009 to December 2009.

Thank you for joining us!

## SSSNA Membership

Please mail \$5 to:

South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 4248

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

or bring to our next meeting

Name

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Address

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Phone

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Email

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Slopes Interest

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Amount Enclosed

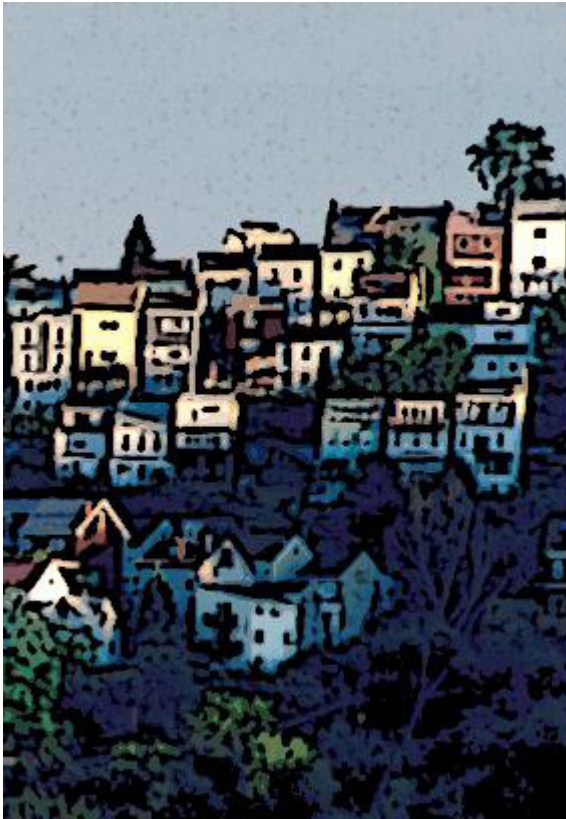
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SOUTH SIDE SLOPES  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 4248  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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Thank you to our Sponsors...



New time and location for our  
**Summer Celebration**

July 14, 2009

6:30pm

Games 'n At

Mark your calendars:

**StepTrek**

October 4, 2009