

## 2013: The Year in Review



2013 proved to be one of progress and renewed commitment to the SSSNA mission of "neighbors working together to make the Slopes a more livable, beautiful, and safe community." This issue highlights some of 2013's accomplishments

### The year in numbers:

- Brashear Association invested over \$75,000 in Rebuilding Together PGH and SCA programs in the slopes
- 700+ StepTrek attendees and volunteers
- Over 3,000 steps were prepared for StepTrek with major clearing on 4 seldom used sets
- 5 Gardens maintained
- 1 Set of Railings painted
- 5 South Side Park fundraisers at Acacia and 1 at Wigle Whiskey
- 1 New trail named and blazed in South Side Park (named Ol' Renziehausen by popular vote)
- \$45,000 in grant money received for South Side Park from the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development
- 500 stickers and clips spreading the word about proper trash storage (paid for by a grant from the Birmingham Foundation)
- 6 public meetings including the ever-popular Candidates Night, Summer Picnic, and Christmas party
- Countless hours of volunteer hours clearing steps, writing grants, managing student volunteers, and painting railings

## Student Conservation Association Partners with South Side Park



*Photo courtesy SCA Pittsburgh*

In 2013, the SCA brought their mission of building the next generation of conservation leaders and inspiring lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to South Side Park.

With the generous support of the Brashear Association, a crew of twelve 14-18 year old Hilltop residents worked tirelessly to build and maintain trails, install signage on unnamed and unmarked trails, removed detrimental invasive plants that threaten the park's ecosystem, and cleared mountains of litter and illegal dump sites.

In addition to funding from the Brashear Association, the South Side Park Committee held several walks and fundraisers in 2013 to shed light on this neighborhood treasure. Events at Wigle Whiskey and Acacia were successful in raising funds for trail signage and in engaging the community in the great work being done.

Future events will be posted on the SSSNA website at [www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.org).

For more information on the SCA, please visit [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org).

## Outreach Committee Zeros in on Slopes' Trash Problem



Keep Trash Out of Sight, Stored in Cans with Lids - [SouthSideSlopes.org](http://SouthSideSlopes.org)

When a neighborhood survey highlighted trash as a significant concern among residents, the Outreach Committee of the SSSNA responded with several programs targeting this ongoing problem. Through educational campaigns, walkabouts, cleanups, reports, and meetings with city officials, the committee made huge strides in 2013 toward solving the issue once and for all.

### CITY OF PITTSBURGH TRASH RULES

- All trash must be in cans with snug lids (prevents overflows, decreases litter, deters wildlife intrusion, and provides a cleaner, safer Pittsburgh).
- If you can see trash bags (not on trash day), it's illegal.
- Trash may be set out after 6PM the night before trash pick-up day.

Though the fight against trash is ongoing, a process for identifying and reporting problem properties is a solid first step. A zone system rolled out at the General Meeting in April, as a means of ensuring that all parts of the Slopes get some much needed volunteer help.

To be a part of the Outreach Committee's trash initiatives, if you're interested in volunteering as a zone captain, or to learn more about which zone you're in, please contact [Cara.Jette@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:Cara.Jette@SouthSideSlopes.org).

To join a clean-up crew, contact [Jamin.Bogi@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:Jamin.Bogi@SouthSideSlopes.org).

## Residential Recycling

The Outreach Committee has received several requests from neighbors to get the word out on recycling rules as part of their trash initiative. The following information on City of Pittsburgh recycling guidelines should be followed to help keep our streets clean and our neighborhood green.

- All residents of the City of Pittsburgh must separate recycle items from household trash and package them for bi-weekly recycling curbside collection or take them to a City recycling drop-off center.
- Recyclable materials include: newspapers, glass containers, plastic (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), metal containers (e.g. aluminum, steel, bi-metal cans including empty paint and aerosol cans), magazines, catalogs, paperboard, white office paper, junk mail, hardcover books, phonebooks, and corrugated cardboard.
- Rinse containers and discard all lids and caps.
- Place in blue bags only (or bright blue containers clearly marked "Recycling").
- Remove recycling materials from container and set away from refuse on the curb.
- All materials with the exception of corrugated cardboard can be bundled together in the same bag.
- Corrugated cardboard should be bundled. Corrugated cardboard must be flattened in lengths & widths not exceeding five feet. Tie the flattened cardboard with

string/twine or bundle them into another cardboard box. (No Styrofoam or packaging materials) Pizza boxes must be flattened and be free of food and wax paper.

- Curb side pick-up for recycling takes place every other week. Place recyclables at curb no earlier than 7 p.m. on the night before collection and no later than 6 a.m. on the day of collection.
- All residents may also take the recycling items listed above to the nearest recycling drop-off center. However, recyclables must be separated in the categories above when taken to the drop-off centers.

For more information and a calendar of 2014 pick-up dates visit:

<http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us/pw/html/recycling.html>

### **Bandi Shaum Garden Grows Bigger in its Second Season**



The 2013 garden season built upon an incredible 2012 season with 86 plots tilled by a dedicated group of gardeners. New this year was a storage shed built courtesy of Grow Pittsburgh, a pavilion courtesy of the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association, and a water line installed by the City of Pittsburgh.

The year's harvest was as unique as the gardener's themselves. The season ending harvest celebration brought an eclectic mix of food and music to all who attended.



Thinking positively to pass the cold winter days, planting time is right around the corner. For more information check out the Community Garden at Bandi Shaum Blog <http://bandishaum.wordpress.com/> or email [sarah.shea@southsideslopes.org](mailto:sarah.shea@southsideslopes.org)

### **SSSNA Christmas Party 2013**



St. Paul's Retreat Center hosted our SSSNA annual Christmas Party this year on Tuesday evening, December 10th. Over sixty- five neighbors attended including 20 new Slopes neighbors who recently moved into the Slopes. A number of young children and infants came along with their parents.

Some Slopes residents brought delicious appetizers, and chicken marsala covered many of the plates of feasting neighbors. A large table covered with desserts brought by those in attendance finished the food menu for the evening. More important than the food was our enjoying each other and meeting new neighbors.

Board president Brian Oswald presented Hugh Brennan and Jennifer Jeffers from Brashear with our Slopes annual award given for service to the Slopes neighborhood. Brashear has helped us fund the continuing reclamation and renovation of South Side Park, and rehabbing residences in the Slopes thru the organization Rebuilding Pittsburgh.

An enjoyable Christmas Party... what a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas holiday.  
Fr. Don Ware, C.P.

### St. Josephat Renovation Announcement

Peter Margittai architects will present to the community a schematic design for the proposed St. Josaphat church renovation at the next SSSNA general meeting scheduled for Tuesday February 18, 2014.

### Help Support the SSSNA



Please help to Support the SSSNA and its mission of *neighbors working together to make the Slopes a more livable, beautiful, and safe*

*community.* Donations are accepted through our website [www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.org) on the PayPal link on the right side) or you can mail a check to "SSSNA, PO Box 4248, Pittsburgh, PA 15203." You can also access our website via the QR code above.



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## President's Message



*Brian Oswald (rt), Jennifer Jeffers (President of Brashear's Board), and Hugh Brannan, Executive Director, Brashear Assoc.*

For the past two years The Brashear Association has been generously guiding investment into the South Side Slopes to the tune of over \$155,000!!! They have contracted with two organizations who have worked diligently to help the neighborhood and neighbors alike from small home improvements to working in the 68-acre South Side Park.

Rebuilding Together PGH has worked with a variety of home owners who have lacked the funds and/or ability to make necessary improvements to allow for them to continue to live in their homes. These repairs include roof repair and maintenance, installing safety modifications, and general improvements to allow for them to continue to live independently in the homes that many of them have occupied for decades. Without this investment local elders may have had to relocate, taking with them vast knowledge of a neighborhood that they helped form.

The Student Conservation Association was contracted through Brashear as well, and their efforts in South Side Park have helped create momentum as our organization continues to move forward in reclaiming this expanse of green space that has long been neglected. Their efforts

in particular help to clean the trash and illegal campsites off the plateau, reclaim and rebuild trails, and take a whack at the invasive species that have come to dominate large areas of the park. Their efforts utilize crew leaders and high school students from the city to both fight the blight in South Side Park and educate and prepare these students for a bright future once they complete high school.

Together these organizations have brought much needed improvements to our wonderful hillside neighborhood that without the dedication and forethought from the Brashear Association would not have ever occurred. Hugh Brannan, Executive Director at Brashear, reminded us at the SSSNA Holiday Party that the Brashear Association was founded in 1917 in honor of John Brashear a great scientist and humanitarian... not to mention a resident of South Side Slopes. Please continue to support this wonderful organization and the many great things they do by donating in any way possible to their continued success. Find more information at <http://www.brashearassociation.org/donate>.

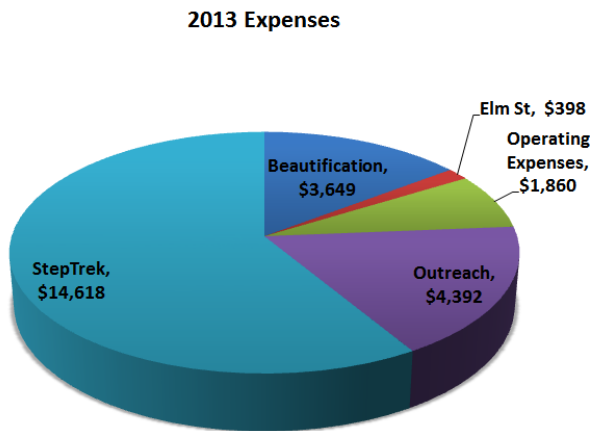
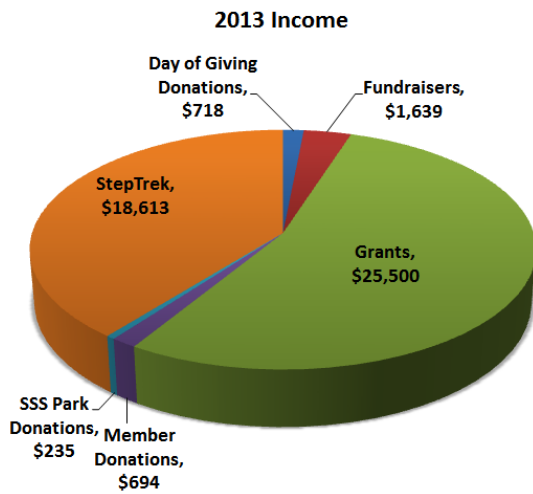
### SSSNA Board of Directors

*Brian Oswald, President*  
*Maggie Buck, Vice President*  
*Pavel Yakovlev, Treasurer*  
*Jamin Bogi, Secretary*  
*Cara Jette*  
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### Interested In Advertising?

Each edition of the *Slopes Quarterly* reaches nearly 2,000 residents and businesses. If you are interested in advertising with us, please contact Molly McClelland at [mmclelland2414@gmail.com](mailto:mmclelland2414@gmail.com)

## 2013 Financial Report



## Elections Bring Optimism to the Slopes

As we usher in 2014, the City welcomes new leadership in elected officials Mayor Bill Peduto and City Council President Bruce Kraus. Councilman Kraus, a lifetime South Side, has been a strong ally in Slopes issues and initiatives for many years. The SSSNA looks forward to active partnerships with Council President Kraus, Mayor Peduto, and the City of Pittsburgh to ensure the issues of our Slopes neighborhood remain a priority of the new administration.

## In Memoriam

The SSSNA is sad to announce the passing of CJ "Jim" Price. Jim was a long time member of the SSSNA, having served on its board of directors from 1999-2000. Jim had a distinguished career in advertising and public relations and was key in creating the early voice and messaging of the SSSNA. Shortly after joining the organization, he played an essential role in starting StepTrek and sustaining it during its early years.



*Jim Price directing Trekkers during one of the first StepTreks.*

Jim was part of a core group of four South Side Slopes residents who founded StepTrek, the annual tour of the Slopes many public stairways. Leading up to the inaugural event in April 2000, he managed the public relations and wrote the brochure and other copy. He continued to provide communications guidance, counsel, and financial support during the first years of the event, which now attracts nearly 1,000 people to the South Side each fall.

Survived by his loving wife, Monica, they attended many Slopes events over the years. Jim always strived to improve the Slopes in any way he could. He was a good friend and neighbor who was known for his humor and quick wit. He will be missed on the Slopes. The SSSNA offers its deepest sympathy to Jim's wife Monica, daughter Lisa, son Mike, and their entire family.

## People in our Neighborhood: New Board Member, Cara Jette

After being on the StepTrek and Outreach committees, Cara is excited to join the board of the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association. She has lived in Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut, but has called Pittsburgh home for the last 7 years.

By day, she is a website developer, honing her nebbly neighbor skills while working at home. She and her husband, Adam, love to travel. They will be visiting Oaxaca, Mexico for a month this winter taking advantage of their jobs which require only an internet connection.

This year, Cara is also participating in the GTECH ReClaim South program this year as an ambassador, so keep an eye out for future volunteer opportunities to help fix up vacant lots in the South Side Slopes area. You can find her walking all around the South Side Flats and Slopes throughout the week.



## People in our Neighborhood: New Board Member, Dawn Lorincy

Calling Dawn "new" hardly seems an accurate description of this Slopes resident. Married to Past-President Paul Lorincy, the former "First Lady of the Slopes" has been one of our most active residents since moving to the neighborhood from the South Hills in 1999. The tireless Lorincy's have removed tons of unsightly trash from our neighborhood through the years, most specifically at their adopted 18<sup>th</sup> Street Bend garden.

Dawn continues her war on trash as an active member of the Outreach Committee and its trash initiative. New to the Slopes? You are likely to receive a warm welcome from this warm and gracious neighborhood ambassador.

Dawn is a fifteen year employee of PNC Bank, presently working in the operations department. The Lorincy's have three children and one granddaughter.

## Call for Submissions

As residents of the Slopes, we know that our best kept secrets are the incredible people we call our own. We'd like to share the stories of our neighbors in our newsletter and are asking for submissions for the next publication.

Know someone on your block whose story needs to be shared? Contact Molly McClelland at [mmclelland2414@gmail.com](mailto:mmclelland2414@gmail.com).

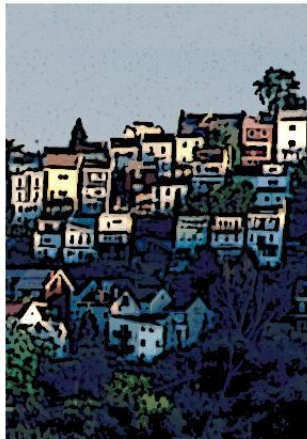


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**Mark your calendars:**

**SSSNA General Meetings**-February 18<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., St. Paul of the Cross Monastery Retreat Center

