



SOUTH SIDE  
S L O P E S  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

# Slopes News

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2008  
Volume 10 Issue 10  
Monthly



*President: Brad Palmisiano*  
*Vice President: Misi Bielich*  
*Treasurer: Joe Balaban*  
*Secretary: Paul Lorincy*

## *Special Anniversary Edition*

Welcome neighbors, friends, members and friends that we have not yet had the pleasure of meeting. This is a Special Anniversary Edition of the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association [SSSNA] Newsletter. The Board of the SSSNA is sending this to remind of what this non-profit all volunteer organization has done over the past 10 years. So, please sit down and enjoy the ride as you read about us, your neighbors.

This Newsletter will share the journey of a group of invested neighbors who volunteered to make the South Side Slopes Neighborhood a more beautiful, green and safe place to live.

We will tell you about the first meetings, accomplishments, member achievements, partnerships, accolades, journey to 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, and current projects and Elm Street designation. There is so much to tell, that part two will be completed in the November Newsletter.

When did SSSNA begin? On October 12, 1998, the first set of bylaws was passed & the first Board of Directors was elected. The EIN number was granted by the Department of Treasury on 5/1/2003, the Articles of Incorporation approved by the Pennsylvania Department of State Corporation Bureau on 12/13/2004, and then the 501(c)(3) designation 8/9/2007!

## *Dates to remember...*

### **Meeting Schedule 2008!**

**October 5<sup>th</sup> noon-4pm StepTrek!**

**\*October 7<sup>th</sup> (not the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday)**

**Annual meeting and 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**\*November 18<sup>th</sup> (not the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday)**

**December 16<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Party in  
Dining Room**

## *What was the beginning?*

On Memorial Day weekend 1998, there was a fire in one home on Holt Street which subsequently burned down three homes. The narrow streets and hillside topography made it difficult for the firefighters to reach their destination. A group of active concerned neighbors began to meet at first in each other's homes, then in larger meetings at the Burning Bush, 32 Pius Street. Ultimately smaller pumper trucks were ordered by the City to navigate our hillside streets!

## *SSSNA Statistics...*

### *Meeting Sites:*

#### **August 26, 1998 – April 14, 2003**

The Burning Bush Retreat Center, 32 Pius Street. We would like to thank Brother Fred and Sister Damian for their years of hospitality. We miss them and our dog friend Do-dad.

#### **May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2003 – present**

St. Paul of the Cross Monastery Retreat Center, 148 Monastery. We would like to thank the Passionist Priests and John Collaizzi for their years of hospitality.

## SSSNA Statistics...

### Meeting Dates:

1998-April 2003 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month

May 2008 to present on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday (when scheduling permits)

### Logos:

1998-2003

2003-present



SOUTH SIDE  
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### Board Members:

#### Original Founding Board members

Bev Bagosi Boggio (1998-2008)

(*President 2001-2005*)

DeAnn Berry (1998-2003)

Dennis Berry (1998-2003)

Joan Burke (1998-2005)

Karen Haley (1998-2000)

Ed Jacob, Jr. (1998-2003)

(*President 1998-2001*)

Mike Janesko (1998-2000)

Steve Kasunich (1998-2002)

Lane Kintigh (1998-2000)

Bob Prelich (1998-99)

Alberta Stoughton (1998-2002)

#### Former Board members

Kay Comini (2000-02, 2003-05)

Kate Fink (2005-07)

Melissa Golba (2002-05)

Claudia Hart (2002-08)

Betty Kripp (2002-07)

Jim Price (1999-2000)

Maureen Rottschafer (2003-04)

Will Schaefer (2003-06)

David Shiller (2000-01)

Joe Tarkett (2000-01)

### Current Board of Directors

Joe Balaban 1999-present

Misi Bielich 2006-present

Beverly Boggio 1998-2008

Joe Ciccola 2002-present

Peter Kreuthmeier 2007-present

Paul Lorincy 2005-present

Brad Palmisiano 2004-present

(*President 2005-present*)

Matt Schaefer 2006-present

Janice Serra 2000-present

Peggy Sullivan 2008

Donald Ware 2005-present



### Safety Projects:

#### Completed

New smaller pumper trucks for the City (1999), 2 pedestrian footbridges made of Core ten steel at 10<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Street (2002), safety lighting of those footbridges (2005), new sidewalks and underpass lighting along Josephine Street at 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Streets (2003).

#### Currently planned

Step and railing repair and replacement based on a survey of the conditions of the Slopes public stairways.

### Slopes Gardens:

#### Garden Origins

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy funded gardens along Josephine Street at Greeley & Barry Streets (2000), 18<sup>th</sup> Street Bend Garden (2003), 18<sup>th</sup> & Josephine Street Triangle Garden (2003),

All Wars Memorial on Pius Street (2007), and Brosville & Monastery Street Garden (2008). 54 Shade Trees along Josephine Street were planted for Arbor Day 2003.

***Slopes Volunteer Awards (past 5 years)***

**2003** – Frank Renk, Tom Hardy, DeAnn & Dennis Berry; ***NAP volunteer awards*** – ***Bev Boggio, Betty & Bob Kripp***

**2004** – Joe Balaban, Cornelius & Claudia Hart, and Betty & Bob Kripp; ***NAP volunteer awards*** – ***Dennis Berry & Joe Balaban***

**2005** – Joan Burke, Kay Comini, Paul & Don Lorincy; ***NAP volunteer awards*** – ***Brad Palmisiano & Joan Burke***

**2006** – Misi Bielich, Joe Ciccola, Peter Kreuthmeier, Matt Schaefer, Janice Serra & Fr. Don Ware; ***NAP volunteer award*** – ***Janice Serra***

**2007** – Judy Dyda, Bruce Kraus, Ron Lotz & Jean Palmisiano.

**Cleanups**

SSSNA has held hundreds of cleanups since 1998. We have removed thousands of bags of recyclables and trash, as well as hundreds of tires.

[www.SouthSideSlopes.org](http://www.SouthSideSlopes.org)  
[www.StepTrek.org](http://www.StepTrek.org)

**Board of Directors!**

Elections to the Board of Directors will take place at the October 7<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting. Those Board members whose terms are finished and are up for election this October are Joe Balaban, Misi Bielich, Bev Boggio, Paul Lorincy, Brad Palmisiano, and Peggy Sullivan. Peggy is serving the completion of Claudia's term. Bev has served the SSSNA Board for 10 years, is the final active "founding" Board Member, and will not seek another term.

If you are interested in a Board position, please contact Brad or any Board member for details.

**Committees 2008!**

The following are the 2008 SSSNA Committees and their chairpersons:

<b>Beautification</b>	Joe Ciccola
<b>Cleanups &amp; Safety</b>	Paul Lorincy
<b>Elm Street</b>	Fr. Don Ware
<b>Finance &amp; Development</b>	Joe Balaban
<b>Housing &amp; Zoning</b>	Brad Palmisiano
<b>Outreach</b>	Misi Bielich
<b>StepTrek</b>	Bev Boggio

**Committee Reports:**



***Step Trek Committee...***

Join us for StepTrek 2008 this Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4:00pm. Honorary Chairperson is Councilman Bruce Kraus!

Artwork will be provided by local Artist Johno Prascak. His "Sunrise on the Slopes" is featured on the Trek tees.





The event is on [www.Active.com](http://www.Active.com) for registration. As always children under 12 are free with an adult registration. The Pre-registration is \$12 for the first registration, then \$10 each additional. Walk up/"day of" registration is \$15 per person. Pre-registration guarantees a shirt in your size and a free raffle ticket. Each year we improve on our book of maps, packed with information!

The theme is "Step Trek – 8, SSSNA – 10, Pittsburgh – 250, view from the Slopes – timeless!" celebrating years of positive change and progress in our beautiful Slopes neighborhood. StepTrek 2008 is recognized as a Pittsburgh 250 & Fit event!

**250 & FIT**  
**pittsburgh**  
imagine what you can do here.™

Bob Kripp, our Trek graphic designer, did a brilliant job on the brochure & book of maps with Joe Balaban. We have raffle

giveaways and there is much more to do.

If you are interested in being on the committee or volunteering in any way, please

contact Joe Ciccola 412-780-1253.

Johno is also donating his "Colors of Carson Street" Pittsburgh 250 print for the Trek raffle.

*For more details, call Bev at 412-488-0486.  
Or contact us in writing:  
PO Box 4248, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 or  
Visit us on the web: [www.StepTrek.org](http://www.StepTrek.org)  
[www.SouthSideSlopes.org](http://www.SouthSideSlopes.org)  
Or email us at [info@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:info@SouthSideSlopes.org)  
Thanks!*

## Brosville & Monastery Artwork and Lighting Dedication 9/25



The first guests arrive, a couple of our many Slopes deer.



Dawn Lorincy & Misi Bielich (left) coordinated all of the amenities and display items with the help of Judy Dyda & Janice Serra.





# Brosville & Monastery Artwork and Lighting Dedication 9/25



Yet another beautiful sunset



Good friends & neighbors



Background: Founding Board member Mike Janesko with Chris Serra, front L-R Henry Hansen, Janice Serra & Bob Kripp



Rich Ripley, Johno Prascak, Peter Kreuthmeier & Lisa Beloli



Judy talking with Peggy Sullivan, Mary Burres & Kay Comini



Metallurgical Engineer (ret) Mr. Stan Lore marvels at the Slopes' use of Core ten steel in so many unique projects.



It was a lovely evening beginning with a fantastic Fall sunset. For more than a year the Elm Street Committee has worked to change the property at the corner of Monastery & Brosville Streets and this night, the completed garden with art installation was dedicated. As we have been updating you, the final work was the lighting of the Core ten steel scrim, which is a cross section of the Slopes map.

The Image & Identity Committee which is led by Dawn Lorincy & Misi Bielich set up refreshments and coordinated the event which celebrated this with SSSNA's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Fr. Don Ware, Chairman, helped with the site at the St. Paul of the Monastery and the AV equipment. All of this went off beautifully with the support of Elm Street Manager Judy Dyda and help of many others. There were Representatives from the DCED office, City Councilman Bruce Kraus' office, Chuck Half from the Mayor's Office and District Justice Gene Ricciardi there as well.

The scrim light up after dark was the big ta-da! Thanks to Peter Kreuthmeier whose concept was finally realized!



Mr. Stan Lore & Peter Kreuthmeier



President Brad Palmisiano flipped the switch! It took hundreds of donated hours by Loysen + Kreuthmeier to make this scrim possible. We cannot thank Peter enough for this beautiful addition.

### *Membership News...*

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

SSSNA Membership is \$5 for the 12 months that run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you, so very much, for your support! As always, we welcome any additional donations. Please mail in your membership dues or bring them to the meeting.

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**SSSNA Membership 2008**

• Please mail \$5 to:

• SSSNA P.O.Box 4248, Pgh., PA 15203

• *Or bring it to the next meeting*

• Name \_\_\_\_\_

• Address \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_

• Phone \_\_\_\_\_

• Email \_\_\_\_\_

• Slopes Interests \_\_\_\_\_

• Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

• *Save a stamp, please just email me the newsletter each month. Check here*

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## ***Beautification Committee***

This is just a sample of what volunteers can do! It was a beautiful day with good conversation that made the time fly. Check out the before and after photos and see what good can come of volunteering in the community. We spent 16 volunteer hours = \$280.00 equivalent when seeking grants, for this one outing.



Before & after, beautiful annuals!



Thank you to the folks who have stopped and weeded anonymously. You are welcome to let us know your time spent, so that we can formally account for it by calling 412-488-0486 or emailing [info@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:info@SouthSideSlopes.org). The hours translate into dollars when SSSNA approaches funders. You may give your name or remain anonymous.

***\*\*Due to the Anniversary content in this October 2008 Newsletter, the meeting update as to “what you missed at the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting” will be posted in November’s Slopes News.***

## ***Trek Committee spends time on Beautification Saturday, 9/27***

In preparation for StepTrek 2008, a group of volunteers spent 55 “volunteer hours” cleaning up the Black Route (East of 18<sup>th</sup> Street). A special thanks to member Bruce Lazier who spent 5+ hours cleaning up the area around the former St. Josephat Church.



Also, thanks to Heather, John & Kira Piwowar (pictured left in her best gardening gear) who spent hours weeding and cleaning up the Triangle Garden at 18<sup>th</sup> & Josephine.

There was much weeding and trash pick up by a handful of guys & Bev. Thanks to a grant for cleaning steps, which Author & friend of StepTrek & the Slopes, Bob Reagan (left, below) had obtained to loan us a weed whacker & leaf blower. Many neighbors thanked us and offered water.



The ‘man crew’ consisted of Bob Kripp, Joe Ciccola, Matt Schaefer, Fr. Don Ware (pictured L-R), Joe Balaban & Elvio Viana. Thanks guys! Looks great!!



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

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The next meeting of the  
South Side Slopes  
Neighborhood Association  
will be held Tuesday,  
October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at 148  
Monastery Street.  
This will be the Annual  
meeting with 10 year  
Anniversary & elections.

Thank you to our Sponsors...

