



SOUTH SIDE
SLOPES
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

December 2008
Volume 10 Issue 12
Monthly



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

Dates to remember...

**December 16th, 2008 – Christmas Party
in Dining Room**

Meeting Schedule 2009!

January 13th

February 10th

March 10th

April 14th

May 12th

June 9th

****July 7th – Dining Room**

No August Meeting

September 8th

****October 6th**

November 10th

December 8th – Dining Room

**All meetings are at 7:00pm in the Main
Lounge except for July & December**

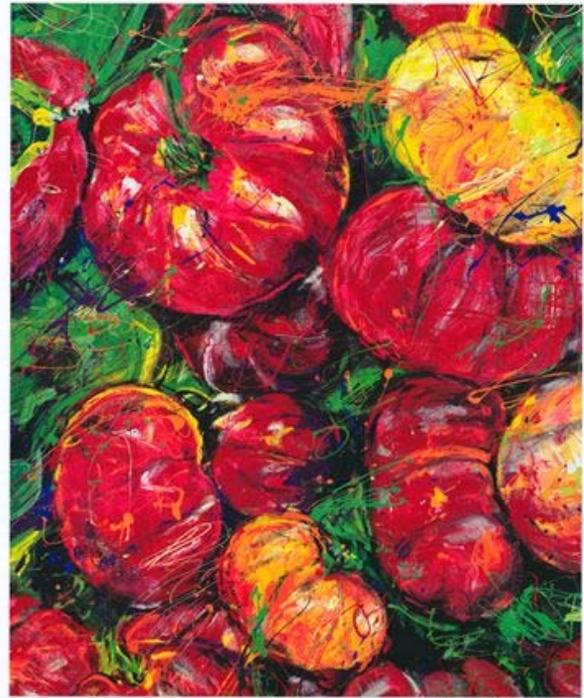
****first Tuesday rather than the usual
second Tuesday**

Christmas Party

December 16th at 7:00pm

Please join us for the SSSNA Christmas Party on Tuesday December 16, 2008 at 7:00pm at St Paul's Retreat Center main dining room. Dinner will be provided. If you would like, you are welcome to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Fr Don Ware has agreed to lead us in the singing of carols again this year. Also, this year, we are asking everyone to bring a non-perishable food donation for the Brashear Association Food Pantry.

Johno Prascak is kind enough once again to donate a print for the SSSNA raffle this year. His "Tomatoes" print is quite popular. See the beauty of the print below. Come to the party and take a chance. Proceeds help to cover our meeting costs. All of his art is available on his website www.johnosart.com.



We cannot wait to share stories, songs and accomplishments with you, our friends and neighbors. We will celebrate our many wonderful volunteers once again. If you have any questions about the party, please contact Misi Bielich at misibielich@yahoo.com. Please bring your family, friends or neighbors to meet us. You need not be a member.

What you missed 11/18!

Twenty-four neighbors attended our monthly meeting. Board President Brad Palmisiano introduced the City officials attending: Councilman Bruce Kraus, Magistrate Eugene Ricciardi and Charles Half from the mayor's office.

Brad then introduced Dora Walmsley from the Brashear Association. Dora outlined Brashear's Holiday outreach to the needy which includes \$15 turkey gift certificates from Giant Eagle and toys for needy children for Christmas. This year Brashear will help 300 families for Thanksgiving and 600 families for Christmas. Times are hard and this year Brashear will serve 50% families over last year. For further info or contributions you can reach her at 412-431-2236. Toys for Christmas are especially needed.

Brad then introduced Daren Ellerbee from the Court Appointed Special Advocacy Program (CASA). This is a non-profit advocacy program to assist abused children and other children from the child welfare system. Potential volunteers to help CASA can reach Daren at 412-594-3606 for further information. Committee reports included the following:

- The Dec 16th Christmas party is set to go. Misi Bielich and her team will coordinate the food and refreshments and entertainment. The party will begin at 7pm in the dining room of St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center.
- Joe Ciccola thanked all those who participated in the recent clean up of the gateway garden at the steps of 18th St, just above the railroad trestle. The garden looks clean and fresh now.

- Fr. Don Ware gave a brief update on Elm St. projects including the Skelly and Loy study of the South Side Park green space, the steps repair project, the neighborhood survey, the forthcoming Welcome to the Neighborhood bag for new neighbors, and the Neville Ice Rink evaluation in process.

Brad introduced our main speaker for the meeting, Zone 3 Police Commander Catherine McNeilly. Commander McNeilly outlined changes taking place in Zone Three, which include:

- The move by this summer of the Station to Allentown. The new Station will have state of the art communications and security.
- The downsizing of Zone Three which will include area downsizing and the consequent loss of 6 police officers.
- The goal of improving communications between police officers and community, and the tracking of complaints and police responses.
- Police cars now have state of the art communication equipment, including in car computers.

Commander McNeilly can be reached at www.catherine.mcneilly@city.pittsburgh.pa.us for suggestions and complaints.

After a brief question and answer discussion the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. Fr. Don Ware, C.P.

www.SouthSideSlopes.org

www.StepTrek.org

SSSNAPgh@gmail.com

Carol Service at the Monastery

Fr. Don Ware, C.P. invites our Slopes neighbors to a Christmas Carol Service on Sunday evening, **December 14th, from 7:00–8:00pm.** “Carols from Many Lands” is the theme of the evening and will include brief introductions and Christmas Carols from other cultures. Refreshments will follow at 8:00pm.

Josephine Street Survey Underway – Elm Street Planning Put in to Action

You may notice some surveyors along Josephine Street in the coming weeks. Using DCED Grant funds from Representative Readshaw, the SSSNA has commissioned a survey of the Josephine Street Corridor.

With the results of this survey, The SSSNA will be able to begin to systematically attack the problems that have been identified by the community - dangerous sidewalks, inadequate lighting, and lack of maintenance.

With this project, the SSSNA Board is beginning to apply the organizational and master planning elements that were learned through Elm Street projects to the entire community. The Board views this as a great way to get the most from both the Elm Street funds and the DCED funds that have been granted to us from Rep. Readshaw and Sen. Costa. Through Elm Street the SSSNA as an organization is learning how to execute these projects in a very process-oriented manner.

We hope to have the survey available at our January meeting so that we can look at the corridor and prioritize projects.

Board of Directors!

The 2008 Board Members are...

Joe Balaban	1999-present
Misi Bielich	2006-present
Joe Ciccola	2002-present
Denise Phillip	2008-present
Peter Kreuthmeier	2007-present
Paul Lorincy	2005-present
Brad Palmisiano	2004-present
Matt Schaefer	2006-present
Peggy Sullivan	2008-present
Donald Ware	2005-present

(there is one vacant position)

Each can be reached at their email address through the website, or at the new contact address SSSNAPgh@gmail.com.

Sadly, Janice Serra recently resigned her position on the SSSNA Board. With a recently completed Masters Degree, she has gotten an exciting new position at Citizen Power which will occupy a great deal of her time. She is moving on in her new career. SSSNA would like to thank Janice for her 8 years of Board service. Janice has been representing the Slopes Association on the South Side Planning Forum for years. She also is a rigorous advocate for our 64 acre South Side Park in the heart of the Slopes. She was very active in updating the South Side Neighborhood Plan. She is a part of the Elm Street Committee and has a very active role each year at StepTrek with her husband Chris. They continue to be neighbors and advocates for a clean, safe and green neighborhood. Janice received both an SSSNA Volunteer award and the NAP Volunteer Service Award in 2006.

If you are interested in a Board position, please contact Brad or any Board member for details. SSSNA is celebrating 10 years of serving the Slopes Neighborhood and City of Pittsburgh!

Lighting Boost on Mission Street Bridges

The Mission Street bridges may be getting some extra lighting in the coming months. SSSNA is looking into increasing the wattage on the streetlights along Mission Street from 18th to Sterling Streets. In addition, the Steps from 18th and Mission down to 21st street will get new lighting to make them safer at night. More updates to follow.

Committees 2008!

The following are the 2008 SSSNA Committees and their chairpersons:

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

Committee Reports:



The committee met for the last time of 2008 to wrap up on October 27th. Plans are already underway for StepTrek 2009. Please watch for the date to be chosen in ~May 2009, once the Steeler schedule comes out. Ideas were flowing. The event was reviewed critically and may have been our best yet! If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Bev.

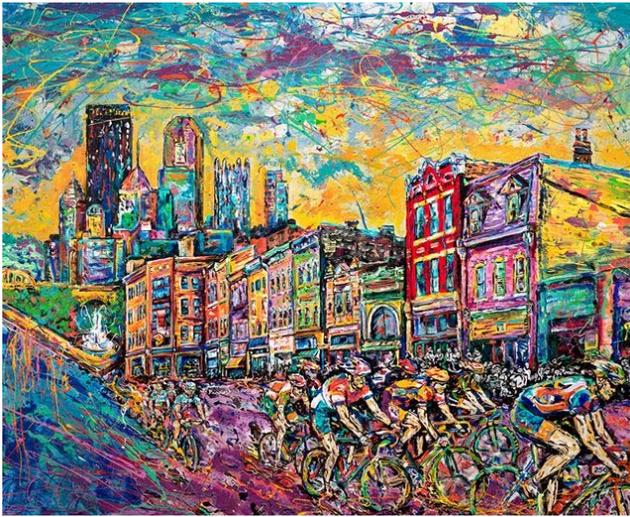


Above and below Trek meeting photos.



We cannot begin to thank all of the wonderful sponsors and volunteers! We are so excited about all of the support and assistance in showcasing our Slopes neighborhood. The media attention is always positive and shows our neighborhood in all of its shining glory! We had a great deal of coverage this year. We are ever grateful for the 8 year support of UPMC South Side for having us use the lot for parking as well as the event! And thanks to Michael Baker Corp for their Presenting Sponsor support!





Johno Prascak recently created his “Colors of Carson Street” Pittsburgh 250 print. If you are interested in a copy, “the South Side Local Development Company has commissioned *Colors of Carson Street* from local artist, Johno Prascak, to coincide with the Pittsburgh 250 celebrations. The piece is a vivid interpretation of cyclists through the East Carson Street historic district with the cityscape rising in the background. All proceeds from the sale of Colors of Carson Street will benefit the programs of South Side Local Development Company. 27” x 30” signed and numbered prints are available for just \$50 and make great gifts; 8” x 10” prints are also available for \$15. Prints may also be purchased via telephone at 412-481-0651 x. 10, by visiting the SSLDC offices at 2000 East Carson Street between 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday. Online purchases can be made at www.southsidepgh.com/store.”

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
www.SouthSideSlopes.org
 Or email us at info@SouthSideSlopes.org
 Thanks!

Membership News...

Please Pay 2009 Dues Now

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

SSSNA Membership is \$5 for the 12 months that run from January 1st to December 31st. 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.

SSSNA Membership 2009

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

If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 12/13) please email Brad at SSSNAPgh@gmail.com so that you can receive our updates. Or if you know someone who would be interested, have them contact SSSNA. The internet is a great way to get the word out. Please check out all that we have posted on the site to keep up to date.

Elm Street Committee...



elm street COMMUNITY

The following are minutes from the December 10th meeting:

South Side Park Green Space – Judy reported that draft final report from Skelly and Loy is expected within a week. Once it is received a meeting will be set up to review and make final comments and to determine next steps.

Public Staircase Repairs – As reported last month, Judy will coordinate a meeting with Michael Baker, Corp. and interested ES Committee members to review the GIS data on the staircase inspection project. Due to the holiday season this meeting will be postponed until January '09.

Welcome to the Neighborhood Product – The Elm Street Committee was shown the tote bag and approved of the design. Due to the cost however, it was decided that they would not be used as a fundraiser, but solely for the Welcome product. Completed Welcome bags will be available at the SSSNA Holiday Party on December 16.

PDC Community Safety Initiative Grant – Judy reported that Dean Contracting and Michael Baker Corp. have been contacted. Baker will work

with Dean to provide a more accurate estimate for the repair of the South 18th Street staircase columns. Judy also spoke with DPW and it was determined that the staircase is located on property owned by Conrail and therefore, the City has no objection to the work being completed. They are also in support of the installation of the lights as long as the City will not be responsible for their maintenance. Peter will send drawings and cost estimates to Judy to forward to Baker, to order fixtures, and to complete Duquesne Light Power of Light Grant application.

Neville Ice Arena – Due to Judy's unexpected trip to San Francisco, the walk through did not take place in November as planned. Due to the holiday season, it was decided to postpone until after the New Year.

Five Year Plan Update and 2009 Funding Deliverables – The Committee reviewed and approved of each of the twenty '09 deliverables. Judy will email the Five Year Plan to the Committee for comment and input.

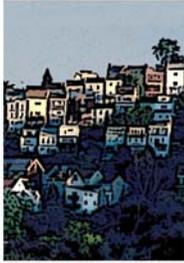
2009 Meeting Schedule – was set for the usual first Monday of the month at 4:30pm. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

Judy Dyda

Thank You Sponsors!



SSSNA Tee shirts!



SOUTH SIDE
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We are selling SSSNA logo shirts for \$8 each or 2 for \$15 donation. They are great! We will have them at the meetings and they are available all year round. They come in S-M-L-XL white cotton preshrunk tees (adult “man” sizes). You can call Bev at 412-488-0486 to make arrangements for pick up. Or email SSSNAPgh@gmail.com to arrange to get one at a meeting.

We appreciate your support & hope that you enjoy our Newsletter and website.

Newsletter help needed

Beginning January 2009, the *Slopes News* will have a new look and a new Editor. The Newsletter takes ~15 hours per month to write, edit, print, package & mail. Misi Bielich is the new Editor and welcomes any assistance.

For most of the past 10 years, Bev Boggio has had the pleasure of bringing the plans, accomplishments, news, updates, and photos to each of you.

There have been many feature writers/contributors to round out the cast. Bev will miss the opportunity to share what great things happen in and around our Slopes neighborhood, but she will enjoy reading about them!

To reach Misi, please send an email to misibelich@yahoo.com.

That Being Said...

Hello all, Bev (Bagosi) Boggio here. I would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” for all of the wonderful memories that I have from serving you on the SSSNA Board of Directors. It was my pleasure to give a great deal of time to such a wonderful group of people and truly the only neighborhood that I ever want to live in. At the October Annual Meeting, Joe Balaban read my very sincere letter to you all, as I was too choked up to do that myself. I was a Board member since the 1998 creation to now. That is plenty of time!

I am not going anywhere and will still be a member, the StepTrek Chairperson and serve on the Elm Street Committee. I have finished my first semester of Graduate School at University of Pittsburgh and that is where my former SSSNA energy has been directed.

I am so excited to watch the new direction that SSSNA is going. There is a great deal of energy and a great mix of people contributing of their time and talents. I encourage each of you to get involved! I cannot begin to acknowledge and thank every person that I have had the pleasure of meeting, knowing, and working with. I leave you with a photo from my Pius Street home taken 10/4/08 during the Pittsburgh 250 celebration.

With Gratitude, *Bev* ☺





South Side Slopes
Neighborhood Association
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Pittsburgh, PA 15203
www.StepTrek.org

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***Remember,
Christmas Party at 7:00pm
on Tuesday, December 16th!***

**Please join us for dinner in
the Dining Room of the St.
Paul of the Cross Retreat
Center, 148 Monastery
Street.**

Details inside.

Thank you to our Sponsors...

