

# SOUTH SIDE SLOPES QUARTERLY

## Fall 2015 Edition

### President's Message: StepTrek a Success

Mother Nature struck again during this year's StepTrek. A forecast of rain and chilly weather had a profound impact on the ticket sales for the event on Saturday, October 3 (see p. 4 for photos.) . Despite the downright chilly weather and a couple of rain showers, we can still call the 2015 Pittsburgh StepTrek a success. Between ticket sales, sponsors, and volunteers, more than 350 people attended the event. This includes an impressive 77 people who bought their ticket on event day; so inspired by our steps, they braved the weather in spite of the less-than-ideal conditions!

A big thanks goes out to our sponsors. Please see our website ([www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.org)) for a complete list. Although we didn't set any records for attendance, the event was a fundraising success. The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association (SSSNA) raised \$13,631.03, allowing us to continue our mission of making the Slopes a more livable, beautiful, and safe community.

Highlights from this year included a temporary art installation on the steps beneath the Mission St. Bridge (see photo at top-right of this page), the return of Johno's Art Studio to the route, and new ventures into our neighboring communities of South Side Flats, Allentown, Mt. Oliver, and Arlington.

Please save the date for next year's StepTrek on October 1, 2016, and plan to attend the 16th annual event. Fingers are crossed for gorgeous weather in 2016!

Thanks neighbor,



**Brian Oswald**

*President, SSSNA*

*[brian.oswald@southsideslopes.org](mailto:brian.oswald@southsideslopes.org)*



### IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	[1]
Business Spotlight	[2]
SSSNA Elections	[2]
Neighbor Profile	[3]
Dirty Dozen Viewing Party	[3]
StepTrek 2015 Photos	[4]
Snow Angels	[4]
Brashear Food & Toy Drive	[5]
Giving Thanks for Food	[6]
Holiday Party	[7]
Calendar	[8]

*"Neighbors working together to make the Slopes a more livable, beautiful, and safe community."*

SOUTH SIDE SLOPES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: JOHNO'S ART STUDIO



Artist Johno Prascak is proud to be a Pittsburgher and a part of the South Side Slopes community painting and selling his art from a studio perched at the top of the historic South Side Slopes.

Johno's original enamel and sand paintings and limited edition prints hang in homes and businesses across the United States and around the world, including Australia, Singapore, Japan, Canada, Italy, and Sweden. Locally you can see his art at the National Aviary, Heinz Field, the Heinz History Center museum shop, Dave & Buster's at the Waterfront, and several Eat n' Park restaurants. His "Pittsburgh Skyline" artwork appears on boxes of Sarris Candies .

Johno's Art Studio is open every Thursday from Noon to 6 p.m., and will be open Saturdays in December from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Support this Slopes artist and business by buying local art this holiday season!

### **Johno's Art Studio**

1705 Arlington Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15210

412.481.4208

[www.johnosart.com](http://www.johnosart.com)

---

## SSSNA Election Results

At October's general meeting of the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association (SSSNA), elections were held to determine six board of directors seats. The board members reelected to a two-year term are as follows: Brian Oswald, Cara Jette, Pavel Yakovlev, Denise Fillip, and Dawn Lorincy.

Gavin Robb (see p. 3) was elected as a new board member. Long-time member, Peter Kreuthmeier stepped down from the board after 8 years of service. The SSSNA extends Peter their deepest gratitude for his passionate efforts, helping to make the Slopes a better, safer, and more beautiful place to live!

# Gavin Robb: New Slopes Neighbor, New Board Member

The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association (SSSNA) welcomes its newest member, Gavin Robb, to the board. Gavin has lived in the South Side since 1999, but only recently “moved up in the world” when he and his wife, Melanie, moved to Mission Street, becoming part of the Slopes neighborhood.

An attorney by trade at the downtown firm of Tucker Arensberg, Gavin has been involved in neighborhood groups in various capacities for many years. He has served on the board of the South Side Chamber of Commerce for over a decade, including in the offices of president, vice president, and currently as treasurer. He also served multiple terms on the board of directors of the South Side Local Development Company.

Gavin looks forward to applying his background in the areas of real estate, zoning and land use law to assist the SSSNA with its oversight of development in the neighborhood, while also honing his litter-picking skills at future clean-ups! Currently, Gavin volunteers as a Slopes liaison to the Hilltop Alliance on the St. Clair Village urban farm project. When asked how he feels about joining the SSSNA board, “I am excited to join the board and I look forward to doing my part to make this great neighborhood — my new neighborhood — even better!”

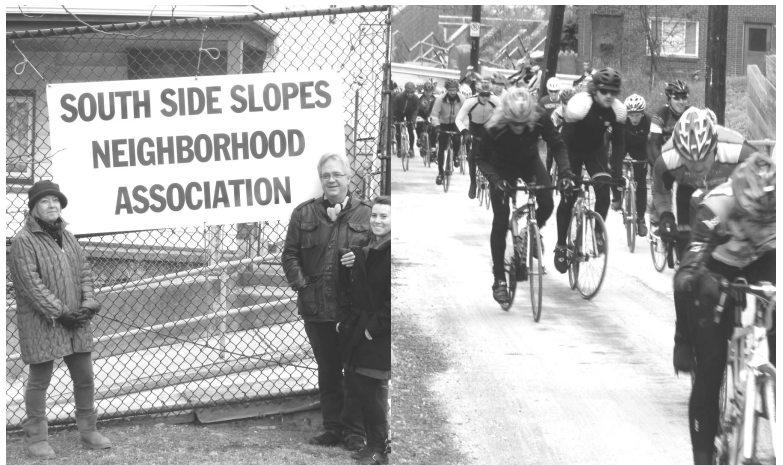


*Enjoying the views while hiking StepTrek, (L to R): Gavin Robb, Melanie Robb, Tim Dolan, Jennifer Jeffers, and Carl Boyd*

---

## Dirty Dozen Bike Race Viewing Party

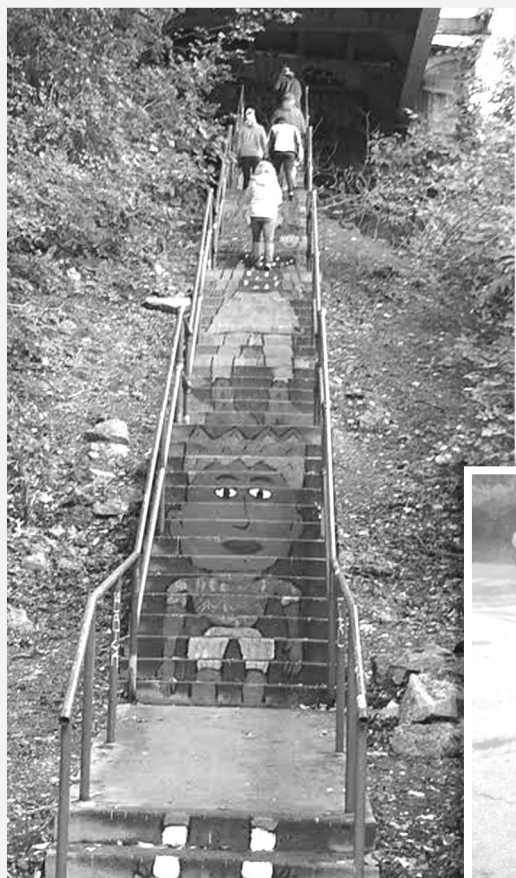
Last year was the first year the SSSNA organized a “viewing party” for Pittsburgh’s Annual Dirty Dozen Bike Race. Join us again this year for the 33rd annual event to cheer on the riders bicycling up Eleanor Street on **Saturday, November 28**. We will be cheering at 2410 Cobden Street from 3:30 to 5:30p.m. with hot coffee. Bring a mug! If you’re not familiar with the Dirty Dozen, it is a bicycle race up Pittsburgh’s thirteen toughest hills. Welsh Way is hill #11, and Eleanor Street is hill #12.



**More details are available at:**  
**[www.dannychew.com/ddinfo.html](http://www.dannychew.com/ddinfo.html)**

# STEPTREK 2015...

StepTrek is an annual event held every year on the first Saturday in October. Walking different courses through the neighborhood, traversing the thousands of public steps and unique city streets, StepTrek is both a fundraising event for the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association, and a way to invite folks from other parts of the city, state, and country to discover the beauty of the Slopes!



*Temporary art installation on the steps under the Mission St. bridge at the beginning of both StepTrek courses this year.*



*Trekkers buying tickets to brave the elements.*



*Jon, a trekker from Virginia (second from left), makes the trip to walk StepTrek every year; hanging out with some of the regulars!*

## Snow Angels: Be an Angel / Get an Angel

This is Pittsburgh, so we have to soon face the unpredictable, wintery weather that is coming our way. Snow covered sidewalks can be hazardous for everyone. Some folks need a bit of help to stay safe when winter weather hits.

The Snow Angels initiative in Allegheny County matches up neighbors with neighbors to shovel the walks of those who are unable to do so on their own. You may register as a Snow Angels volunteer OR request a Snow Angels volunteer to shovel your walk/driveway.

### CONTACT ALLEGHENY SNOW ANGELS

<http://alleghenysnowangels.org>  
[manager@alleghenysnowangels.org](mailto:manager@alleghenysnowangels.org)  
412-863-5939

### SSSNA Board of Directors

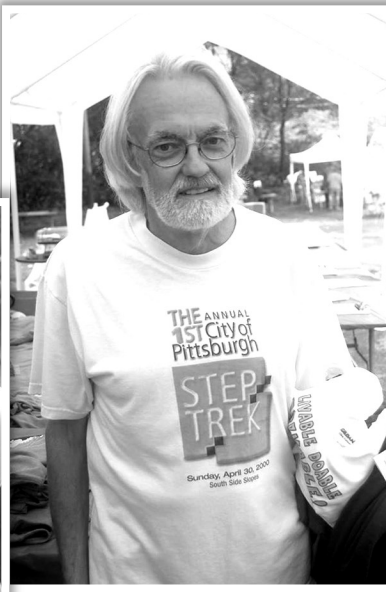
*Brian Oswald, President*  
*Kristin Raup, Vice President*  
*Pavel Yakovlev, Treasurer*  
*Cara Jette, Secretary*  
*Denise Fillip*  
*Candice Gonzalez*  
*Dawn Lorincy*  
*Laura Officer*  
*Brad Palmisiano*  
*Gavin Robb*  
*Sarah Shea*



# ...PHOTO GALLERY



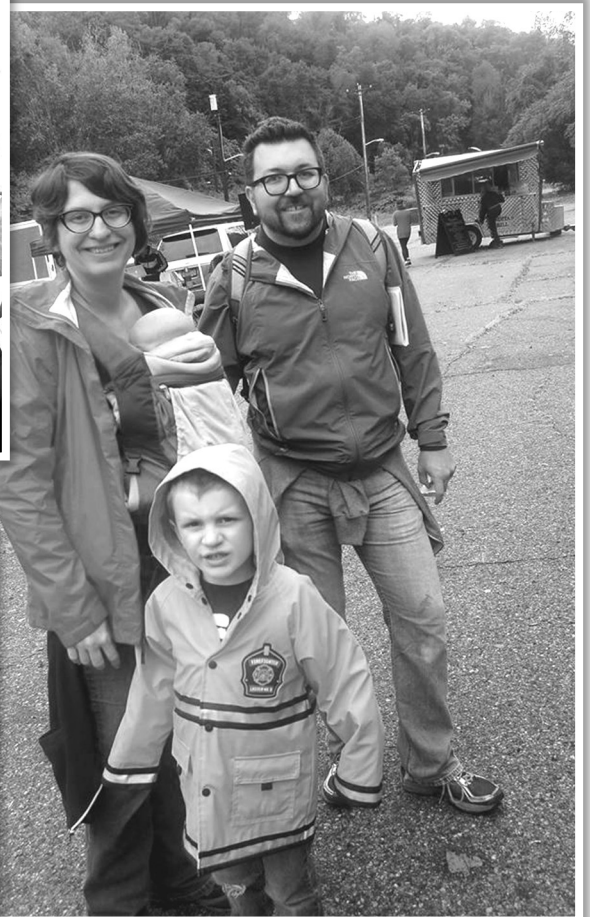
*(Above) Our famous dancing fruit cutters!*



*An original trekker*



*Randita's Grill ([randitas.com](http://randitas.com)) and Swing Truck ([swingtruck.com](http://swingtruck.com)) food trucks at StepTrek.*



*Trekkers of all ages having fun.*

## Brashear Holiday Food and Toy Drive

Donations to the Holiday Assistance Program and the agency's two food pantries are welcome. Non-perishable food items, food gift certificates from Giant Eagle, and new, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at any of our centers. We can also arrange to pick up large donations.

For more information on our services or if you would like to coordinate a toy drive, please contact Tracy Frank at 412-431-2236.

Brashear Association accepts food donations for our pantry all year round, however, it is especially appreciated during the holidays!

### **DROP-OFF LOCATION:**

Brashear Center — 2005 Sarah Street (South Side) — 412-431-2236

The  
BRASHEAR  
ASSOCIATION



# Giving Thanks for Food: Pantry at St. Paul's Monastery



*At the pantry at St. Paul's Monastery*

The holidays are a time to gather with loved ones, give thanks, and enjoy traditional meals and favorite treats. Holidays also provide an opportunity to share with those around us who are less fortunate. In Allegheny County, one in seven families experience food insecurity. Food insecurity is having limited or uncertain access to affordable and nutritious foods. The consequences of food insecurity for adults include increased risks of depression, anxiety, and diet-related diseases like

obesity and diabetes. Children affected by food insecurity are nearly two times more likely to suffer from ADHD; three times more likely to be suspended from school; and five times more likely to commit suicide as a teen. They are also more likely to experience poor health and increased hospital visits. This time of year is especially challenging, as 62% of food insecure households report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities like heat.

Fortunately, a few of our neighbors are sharing their time, talents, and generosity all-year-round to combat food insecurity. St. Paul's Monastery, located on 148 Monastery Avenue, provides a food pantry for income-eligible residents of South Side Slopes, Allentown, Arlington, Knoxville, and Mt. Oliver. The pantry has been serving our neighbors in need since the 1860s, and is open every Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. An average of 100 individuals receive food assistance from the pantry each month. Long-time volunteers greet families with a smile and walk them through the pantry as they select foods to help supplement their monthly groceries. Options include cereal, canned goods, meat, dairy, breads, baked goods and fresh produce. They also provide bath tissue and other personal items that cannot be purchased using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, formerly known as food stamps. St. Paul's Monastery partners with Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to maximize its impact, multiplying every dollar donated. If you or someone you know is in need of food assistance, please dial 2-1-1 for more information about food assistance programs.

If you are interested in making a donation to St. Paul's Monastery, please contact Tom Donley at 412-381-1188.

## **Neighbor Stories: Call for Submissions**

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

**Know a Slopes resident whose story needs to be shared?** Contact us at [newsletter@southsideslopes.org](mailto:newsletter@southsideslopes.org).

## You're Invited: SSSNA Holiday Party Happening December 8



Every year South Side Slopes neighbors get together to break bread, catch up with friends, and celebrate the season. The annual SSSNA Holiday Party will be on **Tuesday, December 8, at 7p.m. at St Paul's Monastery Retreat Center**. Dinner will be provided, but feel free to bring a dessert or appetizer.

Hope to see you there!

**STORE XPRESS.com**  
Indoor Climate Controlled Self-Storage  
Proud to support the  
South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association

*Special Offer for Residents of  
South Side Slopes*

**2nd MONTH FREE RENT**

\*Must present coupon at lease signing. May not be used with any other offer.

**FREE TRUCK AND GAS FOR MOVE IN!**



**412-431-5625**



South Side Slopes  
Neighborhood Association



**APPROVED**

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

### 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: [southsideslopes.org](http://southsideslopes.org) (click on the PayPal link).

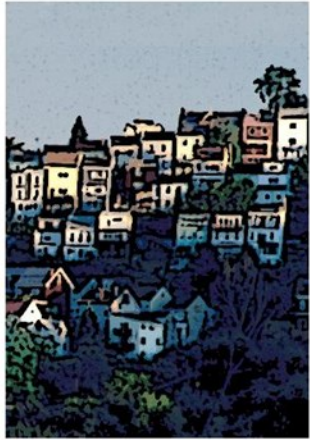
To donate with a check, please make it out to SSSNA, and mail it to: SSSNA, P.O. Box 4248, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

Access our website with your smartphone using the QR code to the right.





South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association  
P.O. Box 4248  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203



SOUTH SIDE  
S L O P E S  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

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

«AddressBlock»

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, November 28, 2015 — Dirty Dozen Watch Party [2410 Cobden Street—3:30-5:30p.m.]  
Tuesday, December 8, 2015 — Holiday Party [St. Paul Retreat Center—7p.m.]  
Tuesday, January 12, 2016 — SSSNA General Meeting [St. Paul Retreat Center — 7p.m.]

All general meetings are held at the St. Paul of the Cross Monastery Retreat Center at 7pm. The address is: 148 Monastery Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15203. Parking is available.

### Interested in Advertising?

Each edition of the *South Side Slopes Quarterly* reaches more than 1,700 residents and businesses. Contact us at: [newsletter@southsideslopes.org](mailto:newsletter@southsideslopes.org).



[facebook.com/southsideslopes](https://facebook.com/southsideslopes)



[twitter.com/southsideslopes](https://twitter.com/southsideslopes)