

## South Side Slopes Wins Big at the "Bob Awards"



*Judy O'Conner, Paul Lorincy, and Corey O'Conner*

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Clean Pittsburgh Commission hosted its fifth annual Meet n' Greet Mixer at Schenley Park Ice Skating Rink, where it honored the City's Clean Pittsburgh Stewards in 90 neighborhoods.

Named for the late Mayor Bob O'Conner, the CPC presented three neighborhoods with the honorable and much deserved "Bob Award." The South Side Slopes received the award for the Most Connected, honored alongside Allentown (Most Improved) and Lawrenceville (Neighborhood of the Year).

The event was attended by several hundred guests including stewards, volunteers, city officials, and city council members. South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association President, Paul Lorincy proudly accepted the award from Corey and Judy O'Conner, son and wife of the late Mayor, on behalf of our neighborhood.

A huge thank you to the devoted legion of Slopers who fight the good fight in ridding our neighborhood of trash and graffiti. Please feel encouraged to help us in continuing our efforts by getting involved in our regular neighborhood cleanup events. Find out more by signing up for our e-blasts or visiting the SSSNA website  
*Molly McClelland*

## Bandi Schaum Community Garden is in Full Bloom!

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> many of the 80 plus gardeners came out for the first annual planting day at the Community Garden at Bandi Schaum Field! Grow Pittsburgh was on hand to distribute seedlings to the gardeners and help get folks started for the season. As of now most all of the 80 plots have been planted.

A representative from Grow Pittsburgh will be on site at the garden each Thursday this summer from 6 to 8pm to help folks with any questions they may have, as well as occasionally provide educational workshops on gardening issues. Email [sarah.shea@southsideslopes.org](mailto:sarah.shea@southsideslopes.org) with any questions regarding the community garden.  
*Sarah Alessio Shea*



## Mark Your Calendar: South Side Slopes Annual Summer Picnic, July 10<sup>th</sup> at Sabre Field, South Side Park, 7-9 p.m.

Please join us for this fun, community building annual event. Hot dogs and burgers will be provided. Please bring a favorite dish, snack, desert, or beverage to share with your neighbors.

## StepTrek 2012: SAVE THE DATE

The 12th Annual Pittsburgh StepTrek will be Saturday October 6, 2012 and planning for another success has begun. This years' event promises to be "Anything But Pedestrian" as we look to expand our signature event in both attendance and diversity.

Paper cut artist, Kathryn Carr (<http://www.gocarrgo.com/>) has begun the design of a piece that will be the face of both our booklet and our promotional endeavors.

We are eagerly pursuing sponsorships for all levels and if you would like to join in those efforts or have contact information for someone that would like to contribute please email [Brian.Oswald@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:Brian.Oswald@SouthSideSlopes.org)

*Brian Oswald*

## From Voices to Veggies



When we last reported to the Slopes Quarterly the Healthy Futures team of Public Allies Pittsburgh was preparing for collaboration with

the Slopes Association and Grow Pittsburgh on starting a community garden at Bandi Shaum Field in the South Side Slopes neighborhood.

Initially we thought we would be utilized to do outreach to make the community aware of the garden. However, when we were told that outreach was already covered our team was left with one question, "What are we going to do now?"

We began to think about our focus area and ultimately what we wanted to accomplish. During a brainstorming session one of our team members, Maya Wilkerson revealed that during her work in the Hilltop area she networked with Richard Carrington, Director of Voices Against Violence (VAV). VAV is an organization that operates on the South Side in both Carrick and Brashear high schools as an afterschool program aimed at working with young people to prevent and reduce violence.

Our team thought about how we could incorporate the group into the community garden. Knowing that one of our objectives is reducing childhood obesity we decided that it would be an excellent idea to start a summer youth gardening program in collaboration with VAV and the Slopes Association.

We presented the idea to Richard, who was supportive and excited to start working with us. Upon learning about the idea, VAV's youth were very engaged and we were able to get 16 students signed up to participate.

We thought about potential names for the program and decided that in honor of our new partnership with VAV and the goal of gardening to name the program, Veggies Against Violence.

Our main objective with the "Veggies" is to build a successful youth gardening program to be sustained after this summer with the help of VAV,

Grow Pittsburgh, the Slope Association, a team of community stakeholders and a gardening manual that we are creating.

The Slopes Association has been gracious enough to be our main fiscal sponsor assisting us with the cost of tools, seedlings, and t-shirts. We plan on gardening with the "Veggies" periodically throughout the summer.

May 5<sup>th</sup> began that process with a mulching session from 9 am to 1 pm at the garden. May 11<sup>th</sup> 4 allies went with VAV member, Melvin Goins, to the May Market at Phipps Conservatory to buy seedlings of vegetables the group decided they wanted to grow. There was another mulching session May 12<sup>th</sup>, which resulted in an awesome turn out from members of Slopes Association, Voices Against Violence, and Public Allies.

It is our privilege to be working with such stellar organizations and people. We are sure that by listening to the community, working together and staying on task we will succeed with this project.  
*Corey Carrington*

**Interested in Advertising in the Newsletter?** Contact Molly McClelland at [mmclelland2414@gmail.com](mailto:mmclelland2414@gmail.com) for details.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Historic South Side Home Tour

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual Historic South Side Home Tour, held on May 19<sup>th</sup>, included three homes on the Slopes. Pavel Yakovlev, Matt Schaefer and Mark Salec graciously opened their homes to several hundred people. In addition, many slopes residents volunteered to staff the homes throughout the day.

Most tour goers chose to tackle the challenging walk through the slopes and SSSNA provided a water station on Mission St. to help weary

trekkers. One attendee remarked: "Walking through this neighborhood and seeing this amazing view makes me really appreciate our beautiful city!"

This year the tour was hosted by the South Side Community Council for the first time as the South Side Local Development Company prepares to cease operations at the end of June. The entire tour included an additional nine homes on the Flats as well as a stop at the Phillips School playground gardens. A total of 1315 tickets were sold for the event.

*Betty Kripp*

## Glorious Gardens



The South Side Slopes Neighborhood has been greening by gardening in the Slopes since the organization's beginning. Formal Partnership with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy began in 2000. The WPC Gardens are along Josephine Street at Greeley and Barry Streets.

On Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, volunteers from ChemRisk joined Garden Steward Bev Boggio in planting the WPC Gardens. It was a beautiful sunny day and as you can see in the pictures, there was an instant transformation. Pavel Yakovlev also joined in to help the volunteers.

It was a work day, rather than the usual Saturday, so many neighbors were unable to join. Sarah Shea brought donated cold water from SSSNA. It was a great time, as you can see by the pictures!

Amazingly, many of the perennial plants from the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Bend Garden were transplanted to the center section of the Josephine & Greeley Garden and are thriving. The rose bushes are in full bloom. The lilies all along the slopes streets and Barry Street garden are beginning to bloom.

The "All Wars Memorial" on Pius Street that SSSNA and the Elm Street Committee refurbished was again spruced up on Memorial Day weekend. New grass has been planted. Pruning, weeding and mulching has given it new life. A new 6ft. x 10ft. flag now whips in the wind. The Veterans came and had a ceremony there with a gun salute, small flag replacement, and a wreath placed to honor those who died to keep us free.

The Triangle Garden at 18<sup>th</sup> and Josephine Streets will be mulched in the upcoming weeks. The plants have flourished with the many days of rain and mild temperatures. The brick sidewalk has been tamed and is exposed.

The Garden at Monastery and Brosville is a shining example of good neighbor volunteers. The bushes are full of life. The tree that was beaten down by "Snowmageddon" is alive and well.

These are but a few of our larger gardens. The best thing about our Slopes Gardens is not only their outer beauty, but the inner beauty that is the volunteers who help to maintain them. We thank you all and encourage more of you to help with the weeding and watering. Several neighbors nurture, mow, weed and mulch.

In the upcoming months, we will need plenty of hands to keep these gardens looking beautiful. If

you are interested in helping with our green spaces, please contact the SSSNA. We hope that you enjoy the green spaces!

*Bev Boggio*

## **President's Message**

We just returned from traveling abroad in Israel and Jordan for the last two weeks. All of us enjoy our travels and have personal visions and expectations when we visit someplace new or noteworthy. We loved the ancient history and architecture as well as the secular and religious aspects of both these countries.

That said, the most striking part of our fourteen days was not necessarily those historical or religious themes. No, I can get lost in the perception of a city that I get by looking at the other things that we all seem to gloss over while enjoying the reason we are there.

I will admit that I am narrow-minded when it comes to litter and graffiti, and the perception these bring when you come and visit a new place. Both countries are highly educated and economically developed, were littered, trash covered, and people had no problem with just tossing trash anywhere there was an open area. I was thinking how hard we in the Slopes work to make our neighborhood one of those places people who visit, rent or buy more livable and clean. We in the SSSNA and many neighbors do not want the perception to be lost in the trash or unkempt street and sidewalks.

My perception of my vacation was tainted by the lack of respect for the simplest tasks of being neat, clean and respectful of one's surroundings. So where am I going with this??

We need to be more vigilant with respect to who we in the Slopes want to be perceived as. We want visitors, renters and new home owners to see our neighborhood as clean and safe and must continue to work as hard as neighbors to grow the vision of this wonderful slopes home we have all built.

Thanks for all your hard work and enjoy the summer.

*Paul Lorincy*

### **SSSNA Committees and Task Force**

**The Beautification Committee:** Addresses issues relative to making the Slopes a more beautiful place to live.

**Cleanups and Safety Committee:** The work of this committee is our most noticeable in the community. The "Cleanups & Safety" Committee has a focus on cleaning up the Slopes, keeping them graffiti free, and maintaining public safety for Slopes residents and visitors.

**Outreach Committee:** The primary focus is increasing membership as well as engaging active participation in SSSNA activities.

**The StepTrek Committee** is responsible for the extensive planning of the South Side Slopes showcase event of the year.

**Zoning, Housing, and City Services Committee:** This Committee works with the private sector and

other interested parties to improve the housing stock on the Slopes by eliminating derelict properties, maintaining existing homes, and fostering home ownership.

**South Side Park Task Force:** Another BIG project is initiating and contributing to the community participatory process to define what the larger community would like to see happen with our South Side Park, and subsequently, make it happen.

For more details see our website at [www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.org). If you would like to join any of these Committees to help the Slopes neighborhoods let us know by completing and returning the following survey.

*Fr. Don Ware, C.P.*

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

### **SSSNA Board of Directors**

*SSSNA Board of Directors*

*Paul Lorincy, President*

*Brian Oswald, Vice President*

*Pavel Yakovlev, Treasurer*

*Maggie Buck, Secretary*

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*Peter Kreuthmeier*

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*Brad Palmisiano*

*Sarah Shea*

*Fr. Don Ware*

*Mark Zalenchak*

### **SSSNA Member Survey**

To be sure that we are addressing issues that matter to our members, we ask that you complete and return the following survey. Even if you choose to answer just some of the questions.....please return it to us. Your input is valued!

- 1. In your opinion, what are the three most pressing issues facing the South Side Slopes neighborhood? Please rank them in order of importance, the most important issue first.**

**2. Rank the following statements to indicate your level of concern for the issues they address. Please circle the number that indicates your level of concern. (1 indicates you are very concerned and 7 shows you are not concerned at all.)**

**a. Trash on my street**

Very concerned 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Not very concerned

**b. Trash in the neighborhood**

Very concerned 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Not very concerned

**c. Poor condition of my street (potholes, drainage, in need of paving)**

Very concerned 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Not very concerned

**If you don't mind, list your address or at least the name of your street.**

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**d. Condition of the steps nearest my house or apt.**

Very concerned 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Not very concerned

**e. Condition of the steps in the neighborhood**

Very concerned 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Not very concerned

**f. Condition of homes on my street**

Very concerned 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Not very concerned

**g. Condition of homes in the neighborhood**

Very concerned 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Not very concerned

**3. What are the top three issues that you think SSSNA should be addressing in the neighborhood? Please rank them in order of importance, the most important issue first.**

**4. Are you interested in being involved with Step Trek ? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If yes, can we contact you?  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_**

**5. Are there any SSSNA Committees that you would like to be involved in (Committees listed above)?**

**6. Does the Newsletter provide the information that you need? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ What would be helpful to read about?**

**7. Do you look at the website? [www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.org) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Do you have email? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**

**8. What else would you like to see on the website?**

**9. Do you receive the SSSNA eblasts? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If not, would you share your email address so we can include you on our list?**

**10. Do you have any skills/talents that you would like to share?**

**11. How can you help?**

**So that we can get in contact with you regarding the above, please share your name, phone # and email address.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your time. Please mail ASAP to: Betty Kripp at SSSNA, PO Box 4248, Pgh., PA 15203 or e-mail responses to [info@southsideslopes.org](mailto:info@southsideslopes.org)**

**The People in Our Neighborhood**

Brian Cohen's journey from Cincinnati to Pittsburgh was a lot longer than a five-hour drive when you count pit stops in Miami and Los Angeles.

Growing up outside Cincinnati in Hamilton, Ohio, Brian first left his hometown to attend the University of Miami (FL)... an unusual decision according to neighbors when there's another Miami University ten minutes from home.

As an aspiring film mogul, graduation meant instantly moving to Los Angeles to chase the dream. Breaks managed to come quickly as Brian worked directly with legendary producers Stuart Gordon, Mario Kassar and "King of the B's" Roger Corman.

After four years in the city and looking for a new opportunity, Brian was finally hired as a producer on a feature shooting in... Hamilton, Ohio.

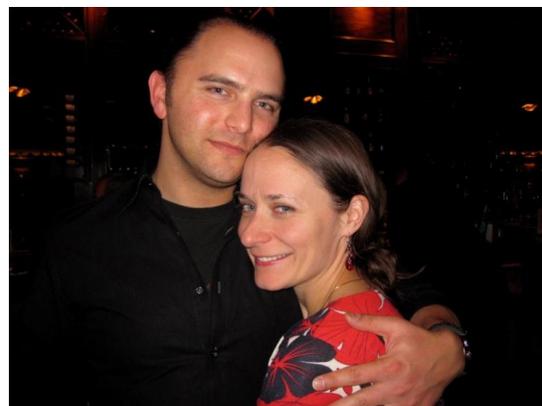
Being home for a while made Brian realize it might not be such a bad idea to live closer than 2,000 miles away, which is when Pittsburgh came calling.

Having a friend in the same field also looking for the next job began discussions of forming a company. Said friend lived in Pittsburgh,

and after learning about the booming entrepreneurial scene in the city it wasn't a hard sell.

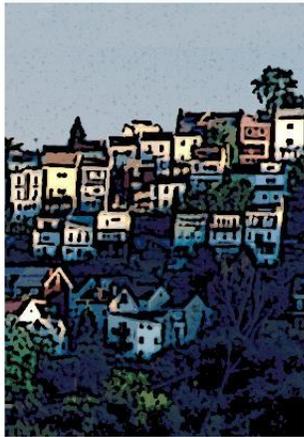
Fast forward five years and Brian is co-owner of successful Pittsburgh production company Legion Media, now happily married to a native Pittsburgher and renovating his second house in the South Side Slopes.

While avoiding your neighbors is commonplace in Los Angeles, Brian and his wife Maggie love the community feel of the Slopes, a neighborhood that they believe is the right choice for the long haul.



*Brian Cohen and his wife, Maggie Buck*

South Side Slopes Neighborhood  
Association  
P.O. Box 4248  
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**SOUTH SIDE  
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**Mark your calendars:**

July 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic at Sabre Field, South Side Park

October 6<sup>th</sup> StepTrek