



SOUTH SIDE  
S L O P E S  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

# Slopes News

September 2007  
Volume 9 Issue 10  
Monthly

President: Brad Palmisiano  
Vice President: Joe Balaban

Treasurer: Claudia Hart  
Secretary: Kate Fink

## Next Meeting 10/9...

The October meeting is always the SSSNA Annual Meeting. We hold Board elections and make additions to the Bylaws, when necessary. We do not have any additions this year. We have five open Board positions this year. Those previous Board members who have expressed an interest in are Joe Ciccola, Matt Schaefer, Janice Serra and Fr. Don Ware. We are very interested in filling Board positions. We ask for interested people to volunteer. Perhaps volunteers hesitate, as the role has not been properly quantified. A Board member is expected to attend the 11 monthly general meetings and 11-12 Board meetings per year. The Board meetings are about 2 hours per month. Also, committee involvement is encouraged. Brad Palmisiano can give you more detail.

StepTrek is fast approaching! The StepTrek Committee will be sharing the plans and details for StepTrek 2007! We will also be recruiting volunteers for this year's event. There are many new and improved features for StepTrek. The routes are different, online registration is new, and the band is very well known. We would like to announce that Acoustic, Good Brother Earl will be at the staging area. Come to the meeting for more detail.

## **Meeting Schedule 2007!**

**October 9<sup>th</sup>**

**November 13<sup>th</sup>**

**December 11<sup>th</sup> – Dining Room**

## What you missed 9/11!

The evening of September 11<sup>th</sup> was a two part event which began with a moving Rededication Ceremony...



SSSNA President Brad Palmisiano (*above*) began the Ceremony where more than 100 neighbors were present on Pius Street. Brad thanked Judy Dyda from SSLDC for coordinating the striking renovation of the Soldiers Memorial. He then thanked Elm Street Committee Members Misi Bielich and Dawn Lorincy for planning the Rededication Ceremony.

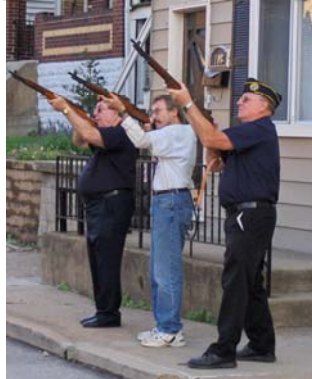
After the attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance, with an American Legion Honor Guard present, Linda Walsack beautifully sang *God Bless America*. State Representative Harry Readshaw (*above*), City Councilman Jeff Koch, and Kim Graziani from the Mayor's Office spoke briefly, thanking our Neighborhood Association for planning and coordinating the attractive renovation of the All Wars Memorial.

The flag flew at half-mast in honor of 9/11. The American Legion lowered the flag to the accompaniment of Taps sung by Linda Walsack, followed by bugles playing Taps. *(continued pg 2)*

## *What you missed 9/11!*



Fr. Don Ware, C.P., from the SSSNA Board, concluded the program with *A Soldier's Prayer*, adapted from Psalm 91.



*Many Veterans were on hand*



*The weather was pleasant and the skies were clear and beautiful. The new landscaping and sidewalks of the All Wars Memorial are appreciated by all.*



*The Hilltop American Legion was instrumental to the Ceremony.*



*Linda Walsack sang beautifully. Her husband Carl has tended the Memorial. Following the Rededication was the monthly SSSNA meeting. (see page 3)*

## SSSNA Meeting 9/11

September's SSSNA meeting was held in the Auditorium of Veronica's Veil at 44 Pius Street. Over 50 people attended the meeting. Officials attending the meeting included State Representative Harry Readshaw, City Councilman Jeff Koch, Kim Graziani from the Mayor's Office, Police Chief Nate Harper, Paul Loy Bureau of Building Inspection, and Parks & Recreation Director Duane Ashley. SSLDC Director Rick Belloli also attended. Mayor Luke Ravenstahl arrived a bit late to give his presentation.

Speakers covered a number of topics before the Mayor's presentation. Bruce Kraus encouraged Slopes residents to attend the Zoning Board hearing on the opening of *Angel's Night Club* on Josephine Street. The hearing will be on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM at 200 Ross Street downtown. Paul White announced a Veronica's Veil fashion show fundraiser at Highland Park on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Janice Serra from the SSSNA Board briefly addressed some issues the South Side Planning Forum is discussing, including the need for South Side organizations' input to a proposed closing of 29<sup>th</sup> Street between Carson and Carey Way, to accommodate the construction of an office Building. Judy Dyda updated Elm Street activities, including the opening of a renovated gateway garden at Brosville and Monastery Streets at 11:30AM on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments will be served. (*see pg 5*)

Parks and Recreation Director Duane Ashley gave an update of the suggested uses of the old ice rink at South Side Park. Over the years 20 proposals have been presented, including four newer proposals submitted since the May RFP.



Mr. Ashley (*left*) stated the newest proposals have been underwhelming, especially with regard to funding plans. There will be a new RFP issued soon, looking for more substantial proposals. South

Side neighborhood organizations will have input in response to any new proposals. SSLDC will be involved.



Mayor Luke Ravenstahl (*above*) arrived and addressed those attending on some of his administration's accomplishments, including budget, city development, attracting new businesses and jobs, and neighborhood quality of life issues. These quality of life issues are high on the Mayor's priority list.

The Mayor noted that there will be more police officers by January 2008, bringing the force up to 900 officers.

The City will install more surveillance cameras in high crime areas.

A number of neighborhoods have applied for Weed and Seed funds to help fight crime and make the neighborhoods safer and more livable.

An opportunity for Questions and Answers followed. The meeting was informative and lively. *Fr. Don Ware, C.P.*

***Thanks to Veronica's Veil Players for the use of the Auditorium space.***

# StepTrek Committee



We are very proud to announce the Sponsors for StepTrek 2007!

## Publication Sponsor

Rudberg Law Offices, LLC

## Course Sponsor

Coldwell Banker Real Estate Services  
& Angel's Arms Condominiums

## Sponsors

UPMC South Side  
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Phillips Heating & Air Conditioning

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## In Kind Sponsors

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## Honorary Chairperson

Cynthia Cooley

## Musical Guest

Good Brother Earl

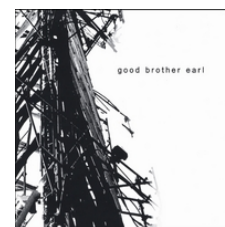


New for 2007, StepTrek is listed for online registration through Active.com. This is our first try at online registration and getting new Trekkers. Go to our website [www.StepTrek.org](http://www.StepTrek.org) today and register to guarantee your 2 for \$15 donation special.



Artist Cynthia Cooley has graciously agreed to be our Honorary Chairperson for 2007. She is a local artist who has many works which feature Slopes stairways. You can check out her many works at [www.CynthiaCooley.com](http://www.CynthiaCooley.com).

We are pleased to announce that Acoustic "Good Brother Earl" has confirmed that they will be at the Staging Area to welcome Trekkers. Their website <http://goodbrotherearl.com> describes them as "Formed in 2001 and based out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the band has crafted their own unique sound that is both radio friendly and impressive live. What started as a group of friends getting together to jam around the University of Pittsburgh, has become a full time musical juggernaut." And continues "In 2003, out of 1600 bands, Good Brother Earl was selected by TAXI and Billboard as one of the top 15 independent acts in the Northeast. That distinction earned the band a spot on a nationwide cable television commercial promoting AMC (American Movie Classics) which helped them gain national exposure and sell albums across the country." We can't wait!



We have the routes chosen. Each year, we think that the routes and views cannot get better, but every year we seem to explore new vistas!

## *How can I volunteer for the StepTrek?*

There are a variety of easy volunteer opportunities for the StepTrek. For your efforts you will receive a free registration with tee shirt and book of maps. As mentioned in the next article, there are several opportunities prior to October 14<sup>th</sup> to clean up the neighborhood. During the Trek, we will need to have greeters, folks to put up tents, set up the staging area, cut fruit, hand out water, register Trekkers, hand out tee shirts, and much more. If you want to be along the Trek route, we have placed to stand to help guide Trekkers along the course & hand out water. The hours that you can volunteer range from 7:00am to 4:30pm.

Misi Bielich is coordinating the volunteers. We will meet initially at the October 9<sup>th</sup> SSSNA meeting, then meet again on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 126 Pius Street to finalize plans. You can pick up your volunteer shirts that night.

Once again, Artist Johno Prascak has graciously donated a print to raffle to the Trekkers of "The Chief" which was

painted as a tribute to Mr. Art Rooney Sr. after his passing in 1989. The print hangs in the Football Hall of Fame. The original enamel and sand on stretched canvas can be found at [www.Johnosart.com](http://www.Johnosart.com).



## *Cleanup News...*

Paul Lorincy has planned two cleanups preceding the StepTrek. On Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, we will meet for a neighborhood cleanup from 9:00-11:30am at 21<sup>st</sup> & Josephine

Streets. Please join us to have the neighborhood sparkle!

If you have any questions, contact Paul at [Paul.Lorincy@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:Paul.Lorincy@SouthSideSlopes.org).

*After, join us for the ribbon cutting at the new garden at Brosville and Monastery Streets at 11:30AM on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments will be served.*

## *More Trek News...*



The event will begin at Noon on Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. The registration area at the UPMC South Side parking lot at 21<sup>st</sup> & Josephine Streets will be open from 11am to 4pm. This event is a self guided walking tour of the Slopes on stairs, sidewalks, and streets. Included this year are new areas on each route. A portion of the Trek walks down through South Side Park. Johno Prascak will again host a water stop with a "Port-o-Johno" at his studio on 18<sup>th</sup> & Arlington Avenue. Once again, Realtors will hold "Open Houses" during the Trek for viewing our housing stock.

Kudos, to the Trek Committee which is currently working and new and different ways to improve StepTrek. Each year we get useful feedback from Trekkers, volunteers, and members that we use to improve the event. This will be the seventh Trek through the Slopes. A focus of StepTrek is to call attention to our public stairways and keep them well maintained through our partnership with the City of Pittsburgh.

Online registration, exciting new routes, new sponsors, and other new ideas are ambitious for a group of volunteers.

We hope to see you there to explore new vistas! It is a "bye week" for the Steelers, so enjoy the weather outside!

# Urgent Zoning Hearing Action Required

As detailed in the September Newsletter & currently on page 3, there will be a Zoning Hearing on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am regarding the business property known as Angel's at 2604 Josephine Street.

If anyone has information and can testify, or wants to attend without testifying, or has questions, or needs to have help with transportation to the hearing, you can contact concerned South Side neighbors at (412) 392-2164 or [angelszoninghearing@gmail.com](mailto:angelszoninghearing@gmail.com).

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

Check out the most recent updates to our website! Exciting information and frequent updates are there to see.

## Board of Directors!

*The 2007 Board Members are...*

Joe Balaban	1999-present
Misi Bielich	2006-present
Beverly Boggio	1998-present
Joe Ciccola	2002-present
Kate Fink	2005-present
Claudia Hart	2002-present
Paul Lorincy	2005-present
Brad Palmisiano	2004-present
Matt Schaefer	2006-present
Janice Serra	2000-present
Donald Ware	2005-present

Each can be reached at their email address [firstname.lastname@SouthSideSlopes.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@SouthSideSlopes.org) or through the website.

## Committees 2007!

The following are the 2007 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:

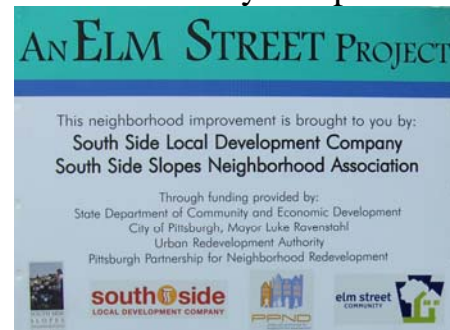


## *Elm Street Committee*



The committee meets the first Wednesday of every month at the SSLDC offices.

The Elm Street Committee members are Elm Street Manager – Judy Dyda, Chairman – Fr. Don Ware, C.P., Paul & Dawn Lorincy, Peter Kreuthmeier, Joe Ciccola, John Schaefer, Misi Bielich, Bev Boggio, and Brad Palmisiano. Thank you, very much for the hundreds of volunteer hours which led to the visible Elm Street collaborations recently completed.



Typically, we have minutes from the prior month's meeting in this section of the Newsletter. Due to the coverage from the 9/11 Rededication, you'll have to see the minutes in a future edition.

If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 9/25) please email Bev at [SSSNAPgh@aol.com](mailto:SSSNAPgh@aol.com) so that you can receive our updates.

## Membership News...

Everyone's membership is due January 1<sup>st</sup>! 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. **April was last Newsletter, if you haven't renewed.**

### SSSNA Membership 2007

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* \_\_\_\_\_

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!

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

**Log on & check us out!**

## More September 11<sup>th</sup>



There is a new subsidiary of the Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission, named Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest. Arborist Matthew Erb came to the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to tell us about their organization. In October there will be a day of caring for our Slopes trees. Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest (FPUF) is an environmental non-profit dedicated to protecting and stewarding the City's tree canopy. The group aims to empower and engage Pittsburghers to help care for fragile city trees that must withstand a harsh urban environment. For more details, call FPUF at (412) 362-6360 or email [pittsburghurbanforest@gmail.com](mailto:pittsburghurbanforest@gmail.com).

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

## Thank You Sponsors!



## Thank you, StoreXpress!

SSSNA moved all its archives, Trek supplies, possessions, equipment & tools to 200 South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street at StoreXpress, who donated space to SSSNA at its building. The facility storage spaces are clean, large and accommodating. We recommend them!



## *Rudberg Law Offices, LLC*

The safety green volunteer shirts donated by Rudberg Law Offices are a big hit! Volunteers are given a shirt for helping with any clean up or garden weeding. We have them available at our clean up, weeding, and planting events. They are also the Publication Sponsor for StepTrek 2007!



South Side Slopes  
Neighborhood Association  
PO Box 4248  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
[www.StepTrek.org](http://www.StepTrek.org)

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**Please join us for the  
SSSNA Annual Meeting  
*Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at  
7:00pm* at the St. Paul of  
the Cross Monastery  
Retreat Center, 148  
Monastery.  
See inside for details!**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

