



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

A Review and Preview of SSP Activities and Items of Interest • Vol 9, Issue 9 - Sept 2005

"ROO's" BOOS - NOTES FROM KELLY

The lazy days of summer will soon be leaving us and it's time to get thinking about Fall and Halloween. Remember this year we are having a costume party on October 22nd at Brenda and Clark Rudy's home. Time and directions will be available at the October meeting. (*If you cannot make the meeting but require directions, please contact John or me by phone or e-mail. Since anyone can download .pdf copies of our newsletter on line, we don't wish to make directions to SSP members' homes public knowledge*) Start thinking about what ghoulish creature or super hero you'd like to be. (Ok, I know there will be a few witches and ghosts and maybe a stray vampire here and there, but let's be really creative with this one.)

Remember we will have a prize for the best outfit. Please don't forget to sign up for food/beverages for the evening at tonight's meeting. Let's make this a party to remember.

John and I can be heard in October on the A.P.S.R. radio show. You can listen on line or on the radio in some areas. The website is www.apsrradio.com. We've made several appearances on this show and always enjoy talking to them; other recent guests on APSR include Troy Taylor, Ed Okonowicz, John Zaffis and Peter James. I'll be interviewed on Wednesday, October 12, and John will be interviewed on Tue. Oct 18. Check the website for local times.

I've heard quite a few good ideas for fundraising last month. In tonight's meeting I'd like to take a vote on some of the projects that were presented to me and hear your thoughts and ideas on what you'd be willing to support in an effort to pad our bank account for future events and rent.

Please keep all of the victims of Hurricane Katrina in your thought sand prayers. They need all of the help we can give them, even if it is just a prayer that goodness comes their way. Be grateful for what you have, you never know when it can be taken away.

Sending positive thoughts to all of you! Kelly

POSITIVE LIGHT

"Things do not change, we do". – **Henry David Thoreau**

"Each of us has within our grasp on Aladdin's lamp of limitless power." – **Emergy John Michael, Jewels of Light**

"Our bodily food is changed into us, but our spiritual food changes us into itself." – **Meister Eckhart**

ATTENTION ON THE GOOD WHEN THINGS GET BAD!

How are we supposed to remember spiritual principles when the sky seems to be falling down on us? When we're baffled as to which way to turn because options look like more of the same? This can be a very scary time. Take a few deep breaths and focus on the good that you desire and don't let your problem drag you down.

When things are going in the wrong direction in your life, remember to draw to you what you desire, first by being positive **and then believing** in a positive solution. Know with all of your heart that it will be available to you. If you are worried about money, you are blocking the energy of abundance that is available to you. Tell yourself that the Universe has enough for everyone and that you **deserve** to have enough to take care of yourself and family.

Remember this sage advice. *You are what you think.* The more positive you are in the midst of despair, the more positive energies you will draw into your life. I always tell my clients and students to remember that "Like attracts like." **Fake it until you make it.** Put on a happy face and go forward. There is always a solution at the end of your dilemma. Sometimes, the worst thing that can happen to you is a wonderful blessing.

Put your attention on Good and keep it there. Be receptive to inner guidance only. Look within and find ways to express the greater good in your life.

With positive thoughts and hugs to each of you! - Kelly



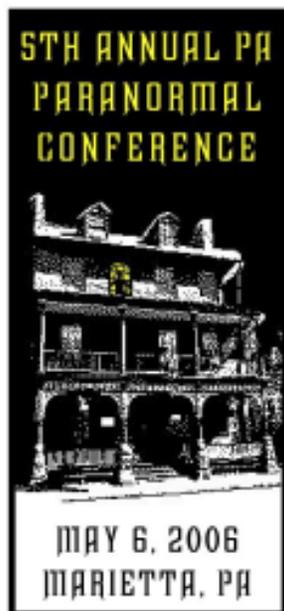
THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT IN BEAR GAP: Investigating the C Q McWilliams House by John D Weaver

On Saturday Aug 6, Kelly and I investigated a beautiful stone house in Northumberland Co. Currently known as the C Q McWilliams house, it was built in 1810 and has been a stagecoach stop and station on the underground railroad. This stone house has 10 fireplaces and is owned by the local water co; we were there by invitation of a friend who works for that company. The manager of the company lived there until his June retirement and along with previous residents reported a host of activity. Kelly feels the presence of at least 2, perhaps 3 "intelligent" spirits, one an "unliked" man who had been trapper and was

mauled by a bear and the other a child who she feels was smothered by a sibling. (and perhaps another male - a suicide) The type of activity reported seems to suggest there are indeed intelligent spirits here.

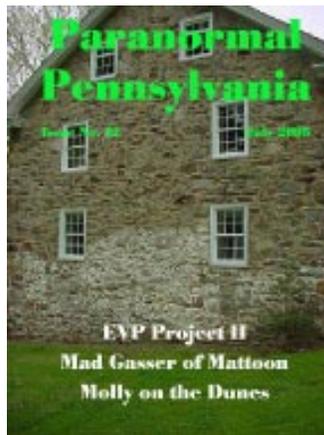
Amongst the areas where Kelly felt the strongest activity was the original kitchen - she got a headache immediately upon entering and noted that the male presence she felt there liked to make a lot of noise and be disruptive. On hearing this, my friend confirmed that his boss and his wife often heard loud noises from this area while in bed upstairs and upon checking them out, found no cause. (*Later, I did note a slight yet isolated spike in the old kitchen where Kelly got her headache - it was the only EM anomaly I noted in the entire place, although this was not a truly comprehensive investigation*) She described doors opening and closing on the second floor as a "playful" means for the youthful spirit who frequents that part of the house to get attention. Kelly senses the name of this child is "Peter", and he was smothered by a jealous sibling in bed around age 9-12. Peter seemed interested in her and followed her around upstairs rooms. (Pat related hearing a story about a child who died in the house under suspicious circumstances, but he thought it was female. He also confirmed that the most recent residents reported the same frequent opening and closing of doors in the upper levels Kelly described, and that "Two of our most burly construction workers refuse to go in because of an incident that occurred several years ago. They were working on renovating the stairs when the bedroom doors on the 2nd floor were repeatedly opened and slammed shut!"

There is also much residual energy, as is often the case in stone dwellings. It's location near a mountain gap that was a major passage for Indians and white settlers evidently adds to the residual Native American energy Kelly detects here. Although no where near the level that has been recorded at the stone farmhouse discovered by Rick Fisher we visited in June, several voices were recorded here and I suspect further investigation will yield more evidence. The best of these EVPs is posted on the Yahoo SSP group page. After taking down my camcorder (which saw a 240 min battery drain and only record an hour) on the second floor, I was saying "Thank you" and preparing to leave. A voice, heavily accented, says "get out a my house" and shortly after, a different child-like voice says something like "Oh, Yeah". (*A more detailed report on this investigation will appear in the next issue of Paranormal PA magazine*) - JDW



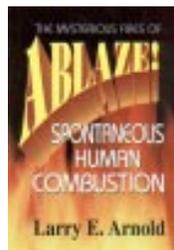
2006 CONFERENCE NEWS Along with previously announced headline speaker parapsychologist Lloyd Auerbach, Rick Fisher has announced that famed UFO researcher Stanton Friedman will also be at his 2006 event! Details at <http://home.supernet.com/~rfisher/paconf.html>

Vince Wilson hosts the **3rd Eastern Regional Paranormal Conference** at Gettysburg Holiday Inn Battlefield July 21-23rd, with speakers Troy Taylor, Mark Nesbitt, John Zaffis & more, plus: A bus tour hosted by Mark Nesbitt, a Spirit Circle hosted by Kelly Weaver, a Haunted Pub Crawl hosted by Vince Wilson, an investigation of the Ghosts of Gettysburg HQ and a Haunted Train Ride! Details at <http://conference.marylandparanormal.com/>



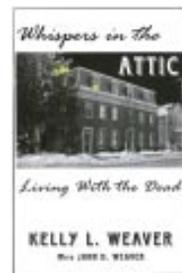
PARANORMAL PENNSYLVANIA Available in printed form at SSP meetings or save \$ and subscribe to receive .pdf file copies direct from publisher Rick Fisher. Writers include Eric Altman, Tom White, Stan Gordon, Troy Taylor, Katherine Ramsland, Ed Okonowicz, Patty Wilson, Mark Nesbitt, Charlie Adams, Dorothy Fiedel, Scott Ditmer, Bruce Haines, John & Kelly Weaver, Rick Fisher and more. Details at <http://home.supernet.com/~rfisher/magazine.html>

BOOKS AUTHORED BY S.S.P. MEMBERS



Ablaze by Larry Arnold Perhaps the world's leading authority on SHC - Spontaneous Human Combustion - and a dedicated paranormal researcher, Larry is a long-time supporter of local groups such as ours, S.E.A.R.C.H. and the former Harrisburg SKYWATCH. Larry's site is www.parascience.com

Whispers in the Attic - Living With The Dead by Kelly Weaver Upcoming book signings with Kelly include Sept. 3 at Mark Nesbitts Ghosts of Gettysburg store on Baltimore St. 7-10pm each night. (*Mark Nesbitt will also be signing on those dates*)



Ghosts, Legends, Mysteries and Rogues of Mechanicsburg by Melissa Griffith Melissa is planning our June "Haunted Tent Event" at Sickmans Mill in Lancaster Co. and the delightful "GORE TOUR" in spring 2006 to the Lizzy Borden House and Salem, both in MA. Her book can be purchased locally at Civil War and More in Mechanicsburg

Ghosts at Carlisle Barracks by Allen Campbell is also available locally at Civil War and More. (*Had no image of Allen's book, thus I chose the famed MP LeTort photo rather than a really scary one - Allen himself!* - JDW)



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:

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E-mail: weaviate@aol.com

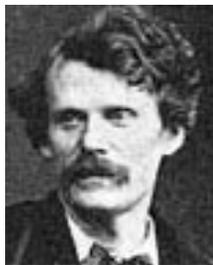
S.S.P. Website: www.spiritsocietyofpa.com

BIOGRAPHIES of the STRANGE and PARANORMAL by Gail Dull

Daniel Dunglas Home:

The First “Psychic”

Daniel Dunglas Home was one of the most renowned mediums of the 1800's, but yet most people today do not know the man whom the term “psychic” was created for.



Home, whose name sounds like Hume, was born in Currie, Scotland in 1833. His parents were poor and so they “gave” him to his aunt and uncle to raise. She moved him to the United States and soon after, his aunt noted that he was able to foretell future events and that he reported speaking with a playmate that had recently passed away.

These “talents” were not unknown to the family as his own mother was a clairvoyant of some ability. When he was nine, his parents were able to reclaim him and he lived with them in Connecticut.

As he grew older, his talents became stronger. He was followed by poltergeist activity, knocks, objects moving on their own, and lights turning themselves off and on all of which did not go unnoticed by his parents. These events intensified and one day his father noticed Home sitting amused while his was being chased about the house by a chair that was moving on its own. His parents threw him out claiming he was possessed by the devil.

He began wandering the country as a “professional houseguest”, the Kato Kaelin of the 19th century. He began to hold séances and his charm and charismatic personality made him an easy to tolerate visitor.

It was these early séances that his early fame was created. The visitors to his “performances” were stunned by his accuracy.

According to *The Incredible Powers of DD Home*, the following is a list of some of his more famous feats that he performed around the world:

- In front of several investigators, he caused a table to move all around a room, without ever coming near it. Two of the investigators were needed to restrain the table and once they released it, the table levitated several inches above the floor for several seconds.
- Demonstrated self-levitation and when detractors tried to hold him down, they were also lifted off of the ground.
- During his séances, hands would materialize in corporeal form, many of them shaking hands with astonished sitters. In 1857 during a performance for Napoleon III and his wife, the hand of Eugenie's dead father materialized, identified by a specific physical deformity of one of his fingers.
- His body would stretch and become as much as a foot taller than it normally was.
- In 1868 during a séance, he walked into another room demanded that the windows be opened, even though it was December and proceeded to levitate OUT the window, turn around, open another window to the room from the outside and return back into the room. This room was on the third floor of the residence.

Some of his famous fans included: Queen Victoria and Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

The most astounding factor of all of his manifestations was that all of them occurred in bright daylight, brightly lit rooms and with full inspection of the venues and props by witnesses. Homes never conducted his séances in his own residence. Because he never stayed in a place where one of the séances were held, it was highly unlikely he could set up props or ‘rig’ his environment ahead of time.

Debunking attempts

Many famous stage magicians denounced Home and claimed that they could replicate many of his ‘tricks’. Harry Houdini even went as far as claiming that he could replicate his levitation out of a window and back into the house in the same location that Home had performed his levitation, but Houdini cancelled the event before it could occur.

In a further attempt to debunk Home, physicist and chemist Sir William Crookes tested Home's abilities under carefully controlled scientific conditions. The first test was of Home's telekinetic abilities. Home was bound to a chair and asked to move an object on the opposite side of the room. He did.

Next Crookes placed an accordion in an iron cage. Home was able to levitate the instrument and make it play a short song. A witness to the event stated that she saw semi transparent hands pick up the accordion and when she approached the cage as the instrument played, she was surprised by an intense coldness which intensified as she got closer to the cage.

Crookes noted that there were blasts of air, notable fluctuations in temperature, rappings, movement of inanimate objects, materializations, the appearance of hands which took up pens and wrote on their own, as well as Home's ability to tell strangers about their lives and foretell their future.

At the end of Crookes intensive research he declared that this was as before unknown phenomena and coined the term “psychic” in reference to Home.

Even to this day, modern illusionists and magicians have attempted to replicate and or debunk Home's skills, like their predecessors, no one can.

An End to the Events

Shortly after the end of Crookes' tests, Home married for the second time, this time to a rich heiress and quit the psychic activities that made him famous and created a new word.

He lived a quiet life until 1886 when he passed away at the age of 40 after a long battle with tuberculosis.

Sources: (Photo courtesy of paranormal.about.com)

www.spartechsoftware.com/dimensions/mystical/danielhome.htm

www.timesonline.co.uk <http://paranormal.about.com>

INVITATION FROM RICK FISHER & THE PSP:

Join us on Sat. October 29th at the Railroad House in Marietta, PA from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM for our annual **FRIGHT NITE**. Refreshments served and prizes to be given away for the best EVP. *Not open to the public, invitation is for SSP and PSP members and those who actively attend PSP meetings.* Think you have the best EVP? find out at Fright Nite. Respond no later than October 22 to rfisher@redrose.net You are more than welcome to bring some treats.

THE ONLY WITCH TRIED IN VIRGINIA by Laura Shank

Early court records tell the tale of Grace Sherwood, who was tried in 1706 as Virginia Beach's first witch. There are no existing images of Grace unfortunately. Her story is perhaps the most fascinating of the folklore in the history of Tidewater. Witchcraft was a very serious and real thing to the colonists. Witches were believed to be a threat to the Christian Church, and everyone during the early 1700's was on the lookout for witches, who could be recognized by so-called unusual or mysterious behaviors.

Grace lived her entire life in the Pungo area of Virginia Beach (named for Indian chief Machiopungo), and married James Sherwood. She had three sons. She was said to be strikingly attractive, strong-willed, and a non-conformist by nature. These traits were resented by her neighbors, who began spreading rumors about her "witch-like" behavior. She was accused of blighting gardens, causing livestock to die, and influencing the weather.



After eight years of constant lies and fighting with her neighbors, Grace was formally charged with suspicions of witchcraft. A jury of women were ordered to search her body for suspicious or unusual markings, thought to be brands of the devil himself, and naturally the jury found, "marks not like theirs or like those of any other women." Neither the local court nor the Attorney General in Williamsburg, would pass judgment on declaring her a witch. It was finally decided that Grace, "by her own consent, be tried in the water by Ducking, (dunking)." Water was considered to be the purest element and the theory was that it would reject anything of an evil nature. Based on this theory, the accused was tied up and thrown into the water. If the person drowned, was declared innocent of witchcraft; if she could stay afloat until she could free herself, she was declared a witch.

On July 10, 1706, Grace was marched off to the Lynnhaven River, an area now known as Witch Duck Bay, in memory of the occasion, (which is located near the present day site of Old Donation Church). Like public hangings in later years, a witch dunking drew big crowds of the religiously devout.

Grace Sherwood was tied cross bound(with the thumb of her right hand to the big toe of her left foot, and the thumb of her left hand to the big toe of her right foot), and thrown into the water. As predicted by her accusers, Grace managed to stay afloat until she could free herself and swim to shore, guilty by the people's jury. She was jailed and awaiting trial for witchcraft for nearly eight years, when the charges against her were dropped due to the softening of her accusers hearts, and she was set free. She moved back to her Pungo home and lived there until her death at the age of 80.

Many stories have been told and retold over the years about this most remarkable woman. One of the many tall tales that have been handed down, has to do with the day of her ducking. When they led Grace Sherwood through the crowd that had turned out to see her put into the water she told them, "All right, all of you po' white trash, you've worn out your shoes traipsin' here to see me ducked, but before

you'll get back home again you are goin' to get the duckin' of your life." When they put Grace into the water the sky was as bright blue as a bird's wing, but immediately afterward it grew pitch black, the thunder rolled and the lightning flashed all across the heavens. The terrified people started for home, only to be washed off the roads and into the ditches by a regular cloudburst.

I researched the site of where the original trial was. The house that now sits on the site is called the Ferry Plantation House. The farm house itself only dates to the early 19th century. But excavations have proved the site was the location of a 1770's tavern owned by Anthony Walke and prior to that in 1735 was the location of the third Princess Anne County Courthouse, where Grace Sherwood was imprisoned for 8 years, in the basement where the house now stands.

I went to the house to get a tour (they give public tours) and they didn't do tours on Friday's. I asked if I could at least look at the gift shop and was told that they were doing a daycamp for children to "live" like in colonial days. That was disappointing but there is always next year.

(Photo @ left shows house prior to renovations and photo @ right shows its current condition)



A SPECIAL NOTE FROM ED DUBIL:

Background: Ed and Brutus need no introduction to long time CGF/SSP members and battlefield trampers from Gettysburg to Fredericksburg. He recently lost his Grandmother, and shares this moving account of how Brutus reacted at the time of her passing. For those new to this newsletter, Brutus is a beautiful white American Bulldog who was rescued by Ed during his days as an Animal Control Officer and is truly as they say about dogs, Ed's "Best Friend". Brutus' sensitivities to spirit energies are well documented, and this is a profound example of his "gift" - JDW

I wanted to thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. It has been so tough. One very difficult problem I am having is getting Brutus out of this funk. He was there and went absolutely crazy right before my gram's last stroke. He felt it just about 45 seconds before it happened. The night my gram died, he was sleeping under her hospital bed which we had placed in the living room, and as we were all there as a family, he whined (which I thought was a inopportune moment for him to go outside) and I walked him to the door. His ears perked up and he just turned his head (my gram's house is right on the water on a lake) as he watched something go out over the water. Then he came back and laid his head on my mom's lap as my gram stopped breathing. If I was a writer, I couldn't have thought of fiction better than that, but that is what my best friend did. I have comfort in knowing he guided her. I couldn't have asked for a better way of my gram leaving her vessel here and moving on to be with my departed family in heaven. And I am glad I saw her go in my dog's eyes. Again, thank you all for your e-mails. You all mean so much to me. - Ed

Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By Melissa Griffith

LISTINGS, REVIEWS & OTHER NEWS!

In place of her regular column this month, our intrepid Ghost Adventurer shares lists of upcoming Halloween season events, a review of “The Skeleton Key” and her personal list of “Must See” movies for the best time of year to catch them on TV!

Mark Your Halloween Calendars for these Upcoming Events!

•Carlisle Barracks Annual Psychic Ghost Walk

Carlisle, Letort View Community Center, For More info: (717) 245-3354
What: SSP member Allen Campbell (author of *Ghosts at Carlisle Barracks*) hosts a ghost tour of the historic, haunted facility with psychic readings at the Letort View Community Center from SSP Founder Kelly Weaver, Sue Woolford & Mark Whalen.

Date: Friday, October 28. Starts at 7:00 p.m. (Tour Approximately 1 Hour 30 Minutes) Prices: FREE! Yep, we said FREE!

•Ghosts of Marietta Walking Tour

Marietta, Corner of West Front & South Perry Streets, (717) 426-4141
Reservations Required. What: Spend an educational and entertaining evening as we walk the streets of historic Marietta. Hear the haunted history that makes Marietta one of the most intriguing places in PA. Hosted by our friend and president of the Paranormal Society of Pennsylvania, Rick Fisher. Go to www.paranormalpa.com to visit his website for more information.

Date: Friday & Saturday Nights April through November. Starts at 8:00 p.m. (Approx. 1 Hour) Prices: \$12.00 plus tax.

•Sickman’s Haunted Mill (Sickman’s Mill Campground)

Conestoga (717) 872-5951 www.sickmanshauntedmill.com Enjoy SSP’s Haunted Tent Event location in the fall! What: Haunted Mill Tour, Haunted Trail/Maze **Dates: Fridays & Saturdays from September 30 through October 29** Prices: \$10.00 for each event; Combo ticket (both events) \$15.00

Special Event: Ghost Walk on October 31, 6-10pm. \$7.00 in advance; \$10.00 at the door. Hear stories of the real ghosts of the Mill.

•Hersheypark in the Dark

Hershey 1-800-HERSHEY www.hersheypa.com What: Themed rides, entertainment, food & children’s activities.

Dates: October 14-16, 21-23 & 28-30—Fridays 5-11 pm, Saturdays 2-11 pm, Sundays 2-10 pm Prices: Admission is Free. Pay as you go for rides & activities. (Parking Fee charged.)

•Lancaster Ghost Walk

Strasburg (717) 687-6687 Meet & Tickets at Mrs. Penn’s Shoppe (near the square) What: Stroll the streets hearing tales of haunted mansions, eerie cemeteries & lost souls.

Dates: Every evening in October. Tours begin at: 7:30 pm, 8:00 pm, 8:30 pm & 9:00 pm Prices: Adults \$13.00, Children (7-12yrs) \$7.00

•The Original Ghosts of Gettysburg Walking Tours

Gettysburg (717) 337-0445 271 Balto. St. www.ghostsofgettysburg.com
What: Several tour choices. Hear chilling tales about Gettysburg’s many restless ghosts based on the books by Mark Nesbitt. Dates: Please check website for touring schedules & tours available. Prices: \$7.00-\$7.50 (plus tax) *New for 2005! Gettysburg Ghost Train Tour!*

•Field of Screams

Lancaster www.fieldofscreams.com Join the Field of Screams in their 13th season of scaring the be-jesus out of their ‘guests!’

What: Three main events: Haunted Hayride, Den of Darkness & Frightmare Asylum in 3-D.

Dates: September 16 thru October 30, every Fri. & Sat. (6-10 pm) & Sun. (6-9pm) Prices: from \$6 - \$12 per event; combo tickets available.

•Jason’s Woods

Lancaster (717) 872-5768 99 Stehman Road www.jasonswoods.com

What: 5 Events: Jason’s Woods Horrifying Haryride, Barn of Terror, Mystery Maze, Macabre Museum & 3D Carnival of Fear. There’s even a “Jason’s Woods Jr.”

Dates: Every Friday 7-10 pm, Sat. 7-10 pm & Sun. 7-9 pm in October.

Prices: From \$5-\$12.00 per event. 5-Show Combo Ticket available.

Melissa’s “Must-See” Halloween Movies

1. The Lady in White
2. The Frighteners
3. The Blair Witch Project
4. The Uninvited (original)
5. Sleepy Hollow
6. Amityville Horror (original)
7. Hocus-Pocus
8. Ghostbusters
9. Poltergeist
10. The Exorcist

Ghoulie Girl at the Movies

Rating: ☠☠☠☠

This month’s victim, “*The Skeleton Key*”

I was eager to check out this film with the hyped “... *better ending than “The Sixth Sense.”* It did not disappoint.

The scenery alone is enough to creep out the bravest of moviegoers— an ancient, dilapidated plantation house in the middle of a Louisiana swamp. Kate Hudson is near-perfection as our heroine, Caroline, and she’s no sissy!

A mysterious locked attic door, a 100-year-old lynching, voo-doo and, of course, the ‘convenient’ thunderstorm are all included in this sharp, well directed thriller!

Enough twists & turns to make you wonder who are the good guys and who are the baddies. As for the ‘surprise’ ending ... I was definitely surprised and it was not what I expected.

A few unexplained events keep this movie from getting 5 skulls— but it’s a definite must-see for all ghoulie fans!

(Kelly & I saw TSK and have similar opinions - it was one of the better thrillers we’ve seen lately! The creepy old place it was filmed in was beyond compare and the ending certainly a shocker -- If you miss it in the theatre, be sure to catch it on pay-per-view or rent the DVD! Also, a “plug” for the new Cinema Center near Shiremanstown and it’s “auditorium” seating - a first class place! - JDW)

Reminder: SSP’s Halloween Party - Sat. Oct. 22nd

Don’t be a party-poop— COME IN COSTUME!

See Kelly for sign-up sheet for goodies.

(A special thank you to our hosts, Clark & Brenda Rudy!)