



The *house special*

Volume XXIII, No. 12

www.shuoa.org

January 2003



Board of Directors President, Johnnie Moore

I trust that everyone enjoyed the holidays and celebratory occasions for the various ethnic and religious groups that occurred during the months of November and December 2002. Let us work even more diligently in 2003 at being a more inclusive community and respecting the rights and values of others that may be different from our own.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the owners, residents, and staff for their dedication and contributions to a successful 2002 for the SHUOA. We completed the year well within budget for planned expenditures and were able to handle unforeseen expenditures with the funds in the reserve fund for these purposes without having to consider any special assessment or other action to meet the needs of the Association. I recognize that this can only occur by each of the above groups doing their respective parts to maintain the value of our property.

The owners are the sole source of funds for the maintenance and operation of the facilities and common areas. Residents play a critical role in minimizing the cost for maintenance and operation of the facilities and common areas by treating Skyline House as their home and with respect for other residents and their property. The staff is the unsung heroes of Skyline House because they are rarely thanked for the outstanding jobs they perform in maintaining the property. Skyline House is

recognized as a “luxury condo community” based on our efforts to keep the place well groomed and spotless, and we, the owners and residents, reap the benefit of our efforts by the price the units command and the type of individuals who are attracted to this location.

In 2002, we experienced too many instances of staff members not being respected by some of the residents. This will not be tolerated in 2003. If a resident is abusive or offensive to a staff member in the performance of his or her duties, we will exercise every legal means available to ensure swift and effective action is taken against the offender. There is no excuse in the 21st century for behavior that does not respect the rights of others, and the SHUOA will not tolerate it on the property in those areas that are controlled by the SHUOA.

You, the residents of Skyline House, are the “customers” of the Skyline House Management staff and the Board of Directors. We are going to be much more effective in 2003 in ensuring that you see evidence that we understand and value this relationship. What do I mean? In the nine months that I have been on the Board, I would sum up the view of the relationship between the Board/Management and residents by residents as “them against us.” I can say with absolute confidence that nothing is further from the truth, but I also acknowledge that until we prove it to be so, your view will not change. I commit to you to see that change in 2003.

First, I am working with Management to improve the service provided by the front desk

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE HOUSE SPECIAL welcomes brief comments from its readers. Limit your letters to 250 words or less and include your name and unit number. The Association Board reserves the right to refuse incorrect or improper statements. Committee reports must be submitted to the Editor by the 23rd of each month or NLT 3 days after mtg.

Information for *THE HOUSE SPECIAL* may be sent by e-mail to the Editor, dropped off at the Management office or the reception desk.

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employees. We will make multiple attempts to contact residents when packages are received and will document these attempts, including leaving notes under the door if we get no telephone response. There have been several instances in 2002 where people have received items that had spoiled or deteriorated because of the delay in picking up the item. Although it is the resident's responsibility to check at the front desk for items, this additional service will be provided as "value-added" service to residents.

Second, we will be placing Customer Service Feedback Forms at the front desk to afford residents an opportunity to provide feedback on the various services provided by the SHUOA so we can see how we are doing and take appropriate action where necessary. We will also provide a capability for the feedback to be provided on-line. The bottom line is that you pay for the service you receive, and if you do not perceive it as value, we need to know and take appropriate actions. What we are not willing to do is reduce the level of "common support" that would cause the status of the property to change from what it is to something less. The only thing that would cause that to change would be a significant change in what we do as residents to ensure the common areas are kept clean and presentable by our personal behavior and that of our guests.

The two major maintenance projects started in 2002 have been completed: façade repairs on the East and West buildings and the expansion joint repair. The scaffolding that is in place by the lobby was left in place after emergency repair to the façade work (scheduled for 2003) could not wait. If the scaffolding were removed for the three months (until March) until the second phase begins, it would have cost the SHUOA an additional \$5K+. The Board voted to not incur the additional expense. We appreciate your patience during this period. The elevator repair work in the West building is complete, and work will soon begin in the East building. All of these efforts are necessary to keep the buildings functioning properly as we are now more than 20 years old. The Board is committed to minimizing long-term cost to the Association by taking prudent steps to ensure any work performed comes with a

warranty commitment and that we are fixing the cause of a problem not the symptom.

The next major event is the 2003 SHUOA Board of Directors election, which is quickly approaching. The nomination committee is beginning to prepare and circulate materials. Additionally, there are vacancies on the various committees and fresh ideas are always welcome. I strongly encourage you to make a commitment to get involved in the operation of the SHUOA by running for one of the Board positions or volunteering to help in some other way. The new Board of Directors will elect officers after the annual meeting, which elects the new Board Members. I am confident that whoever is elected, the President will continue to focus on “improved customer service” to the residents of Skyline House.

I have learned much during the past nine months and look forward to continuing to serve as a member of the SHUOA Board of Directors. While we have not always agreed on a particular issue, I am very pleased to report that we, the Board, have become ever more focused on protecting the value of the property and the rights of those who own and live here. I encourage you to stop by the office and review the financial health of the Association and any other materials that may cause you to be concerned about how effective we are at managing your affairs. I am confident that you will be pleased with the result. Additionally, please feel free to contact me directly with any questions, comments or concerns.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be on Wednesday, January 22, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.



**General Manager
Gusbey Silva**

I wish everyone a Peaceful and Happy New Year.

The following major items were accomplished during last year:

- West building passenger elevators modernization;
- Waterproofing of garage plaza planters;
- Garage exterior walls repairs and seal coating;
- Replacement of garage doors;
- Replacement of damaged residential corridor carpet in seven floors of the West building and in the “G” level of the East building;
- Replacement of main lobby carpet, drapes and furniture;
- East and West gallery drapery replacement;
- East and West first floor light fixtures replacement;
- East and West party rooms furniture refurbishing;
- East end wall of the East building façade repairs and installation of new flashing;
- West end wall of the West building façade repairs and installation of new flashing;
- Replacement of the expansion joint at the east and west sides of the Lobby building.

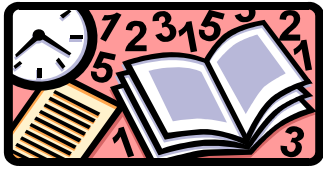
The following have been planned and budgeted for year 2003:

- Completion of east and west end walls façade maintenance;
- Replacement of damaged East and West party rooms parquet flooring;
- Painting of garage vertical panels;
- Replacement of brick wall in front of West building by the circle;
- Exercise room overhaul;
- Modernization of East building passenger elevators;
- Modernization of East and West building freight elevators.

Snow Season – Please be extra careful

Please be extra careful when walking outside of the building after a snow or ice storm. Advise your guests to use the sidewalk on George Mason Dr. to access the lobby after parking in our guest

parking area. The driveway in front of the West building gets very little sun and takes longer than other areas for the snow or ice to melt.



**Editor
Louise Albin**

Farewell to Adua Stranere

It is a bittersweet farewell that we say to Adua. The time has come for Adua to leave us after 22 years and 8 months (since April 1980) at Skyline House. She was a remarkable receptionist to all who have entered our front doors. We'll miss her cheerfulness and helpful friendly service.

Management will host a retirement party for Adua on Saturday, January 25, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. in the West party room. All residents are invited to come pay tribute to Adua and send her off to a happy retirement.

I am always looking for information that might be of interest to our residents. If you would like to submit something that interests you, please send me an e-mail or put a printed article in my box (903-W) at the front desk.

YOU ARE INVITED TO RUN FOR A SEAT ON THE SKYLINE HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHY MIGHT YOU WANT TO DO THAT?

1. TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR COMMUNITY
2. TO HELP YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
3. TO HAVE AN INPUT INTO WHAT HAPPENS HERE
4. TO BE IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF EVERYTHING
5. TO BE AMONG THE FIRST TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING
6. TO BE WHERE THE ACTION IS

SOUNDS GOOD, BUT WHAT DOES A BOARD MEMBER DO?

1. ATTENDS ONE REGULAR MEETING EACH MONTH (EXCEPT AUGUST- EXCUSED ABSENCES ARE ACCEPTABLE)
2. ATTENDS EVENING MEETINGS OF ABOUT TWO TO THREE HOURS
3. ATTENDS EXECUTIVE SESSIONS OF THE BOARD (FOR BOARD MEMBERS ONLY)
4. PREPARES FOR THESE MEETINGS BY REVIEWING MATERIAL PROVIDED
5. KEEPS INFORMED OF ISSUES AFFECTING SKYLINE HOUSE

OK! YOU'RE CONVINCED! NOW WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

PICK UP AND COMPLETE AN APPLICATION AND RETURN IT TO THE MANAGEMENT OFFICE.

A Reminder from the Accounting Office...

Effective immediately, please remember to update your records to reflect our new address to send Condominium fee payments. The new address is:

**Skyline House Unit Owners' Association
PO Box 1952
Merrifield, VA. 22116-1952**

Thank you!!

Thanks to everyone who made a contribution to the families adopted by Skyline House this year!!

We had a tremendous response and both families were very, very happy at Thanksgiving as well as for the Christmas gifts!!! Thanks so much for your support!!!!

Tycia Haight, Accounting Office

**Security, Fire and
Safety Committee
Terry G. Sakellos, Chairman**



Charter

The Security, Fire and Safety Committee is the Skyline House guardian of the vital measures

for the protection of persons and property against accidents or willful malicious acts. Using the following guidelines, the Committee will formulate suggested rules or courses of action for the Board's implementation.

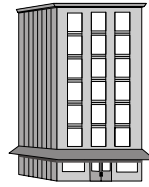
1. Promote the fire safety laws and secure compliance with those regulations.
2. Maintain a working relationship with local fire and police departments by sponsoring seminars for dissemination of information for residents on fire safety, crime prevention, and building evacuation procedures.
3. Review vandalism prevention policies and monitor violations.
4. Support a Neighborhood Watch program.
5. Review building and ground security services contracts.
6. Review and make recommendations concerning security procedures for entrances and exits by all personnel and vehicles using Skyline House facilities and associated physical surveillance controls.
7. Maintain a security, fire, and safety checklist that will be utilized by Management for orientation of all new Skyline House residents.
8. Review any security or safety issue as directed by the Board that is not covered by the aforementioned guidelines.

The next Security, Fire & Safety Committee meeting will be January 8, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.



**Financial Management
Committee**
Wynfred Joshua, Chair

The Finance Committee did not meet in December 2002; therefore, no report is submitted. The next meeting will be January 21, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.



**Physical Plant
And Operations Committee**
**George Beams
And Kurt Bedenbaugh**

The Committee did not meet in December 2002. All planned projects are in progress and on schedule. The next PPOC meeting will be on Thursday, January 9, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.



Covenants Committee
Joseph Livingston, Chairman

The Covenants Committee did not meet in December 2002. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 15, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.



Neighborhood Watch
Judith York, Coordinator

I wish one and all a healthy and happy 2003. In 2002, the Neighborhood Watch volunteers did an outstanding and noteworthy job of patrolling the East and West buildings and grounds of Skyline House. They completed the monitoring forms and also the logbook (when necessary) so that incidents and repairs could be quickly corrected. Skyline House is an extremely well run and attractive building, and it is the result of the coordination and cooperation of a whole network of people. Many of the volunteers are members of the Board of Directors, chairpersons, members and participants of the committees. Thanks to Management, maintenance, housekeeping, and the front desk personnel for your efforts, hard work and dedication (several have been here for 15 years or longer).

Mason District (6507 Columbia Pike) – There will be open training sessions at the Mason District Police Station on January 7th, March 4th,

and May 6th, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. for Neighborhood Watch volunteers who need their certification. I will attend the meetings and will be happy to give a ride to those needed volunteers. The Safety Awareness meeting held in the West party room on December 18, 2002 provided a great opportunity to meet the Police and Firefighters who look after our community. The meeting was extremely interesting, and I appreciated the chance to meet face-to-face with the persons who are entrusted with looking after our welfare, sometimes in life-threatening situations.

Let's make it part of our community life this year to appreciate each other and each day as it comes and to offer small courtesies like "good morning/afternoon/evening," or a pleasant hello etc. to our fellow elevator riders; to help our neighbors when needed; to give free smiles to "little ones" to whom we appear like skyscrapers; and to do all those random acts of kindness which may well make the recipient feel good all day. In this high cost, high stressed area, these small offerings cost nothing and benefit the giver as much as the receiver. Thank you for your volunteerism and your neighborly kindness. I wish you a Happy New Year.



Recreation Committee
Tony DiSalvo
Chairman

The Recreation Committee would like to thank all the wonderful Skyline House residents who attended the annual holiday party on Saturday, December 14th. As usual, you prepared great food and desserts. We also thank the number of residents who attended for the first time. We hope you will return.

Thanks to Carroll Thompson, Sophia Anderson and Nadyne McKelvey who helped decorate and plan for the party. Thanks to those who helped to clean up after the party, especially Nancy DiSalvo and Helen Kumor.

If you are a resident and have not attended the monthly TGIF, make this your first and meet your neighbors. To make it easier, you are requested

NOT to bring a plate of hors d'oeuvres, just your own liquid refreshment.

The next TGIF, which we call the Post Holiday TGIF, is scheduled for Friday, January 3, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. in the East Party Room.

COMING EVENTS

TGIF, February 1, 2003 at 6:30 p.m., in the West Party Room



Good Neighbor Committee
Co-Chairs

Toska Prather 703-379-7849
 Ann Preston 703-931-7679

Good Neighbors for January:

Sonja Livingston 703-931-6923
 Christine McCalske 703-931-2605

The Good Neighbors are available to assist all residents who are in need of temporary help due to illness or emergency. We need new members. Please call one of the co-chairs and join us.

"AROUND THE BLOCK..."

I recently returned from vacation and a long airplane ride. My muscles and joints were calling for some TLC (Tender Loving Care). I remembered seeing a building in the Build American Center shopping center squeezed between the bank and the 7-11 that had a sign advertising: "Affordable Massage - Walk-ins Welcome." Being the skeptic that I am, I was unsure as to its sincerity, so I walked in.

I went up the stairs to the second floor and was welcomed by two very nice people, Chieko and Jesse. As it turns out, the building and business are shared by 11 massage therapists, all board certified, licensed, and insured ready to offer you professional bodywork services. The rates were affordable and "no-joke," and there were no hidden charges. Rates are \$45.00 for a one-hour session or \$25.00 for a half-hour.

As those who work out or exercise either regularly or sporadically, those muscles can get

weary and sore. This could be the answer for you. Having been an aerobics instructor many years ago, I did remember that massage has some great benefits.

Massage has many benefits and uses: It enhances general health; keeps the body and mind functioning optimally; promotes well nourished and healthy skin; improves circulation of blood and lymph fluids; relaxes muscles and improves joint mobility (range of motion); encourages general relaxation; improves immune system functioning; improves energy flow.

Massage alleviates problem conditions: Helps relieve certain common physical problems; helps to bring body back into optimal functioning condition; general muscular tension and aches; tension headaches; muscular back pain; poor circulation; stress and anxiety.

Massage relieves the effects of stress: helps us avoid stress related disease and dysfunction; triggers the relaxation response; relaxes tense muscles; reduces anxiety levels; normalizes blocked energy flow

I must say that after a session with Jesse, my body felt like I had just returned from a vacation. But wait, I did! I plan to return to Affordable Massage in the future. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new neighbor in the block and provide you with information on the services offered by this great group of people.

Each of the therapist has a specialty and can provide you with: Trigger Point Therapy; Swedish massage; Deep Tissue body work; Clinical Neuromuscular and Structural bodywork; Esian Massage; Athletic (Sports) Massage; Seated Chair Massage, Reiki Energy Work; Lymph Drainage; Neck & Back Pain Management; Muscle Energy Technique; Pre-Natal Massage; LaStone Therapy (hot/cold stone massage); Paraffin hand & foot treatments; reflexology; as well as specialty therapies that are not massage related, such as: VitaFlex Foot Technique; Lymphatic Pump; Hypnotherapy Techniques; Guided Meditations; and Reiki Certification Classes.

For additional information on Affordable Massage, 3831 South George Mason Drive, in the Build America Shopping Center, go to www.AffordableMassage.com. You will be introduced to the many professional therapists available to serve you. Also, you may call (703) 820-3550 for a vacation without leaving the neighborhood!

***** Have you seen a great movie, been to an interesting restaurant, gone to an unusual store, or if you have an interesting story to tell about something new or old around the Skyline neighborhood, please drop off your name, telephone number and information in my mailbox 1716E in the lobby. ****

Submitted by Linda Council

Do you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share? I made a lot of candy during the holidays, and have the pounds to show for it! Try this one and see if you can EAT JUST ONE piece! English Toffee is so easy to make – takes about 10 minutes – and I promise you that you can't eat just one piece.

English Toffee

½ cup finely chopped pecans
¼ lb butter (1 stick)
½ cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar
2 tablespoons water
1 ½ Chocolate Hershey's bars

Spread pecans over bottom of 8-inch square baking pan.

Melt butter slowly in 8-inch pan/pot. Add sugar and water to melted butter. Stirring constantly, bring to full boil over high heat until mixture turn light brown, about 5 minutes. Immediately pour over chopped pecans, spreading evenly to sides of pan. Break Hershey's chocolate bars into squares and place squares over hot toffee. When melted, spread evenly over toffee. When cool, break in small pieces and store in closed container.

I burned out the motor of my hand mixer making this Divinity.

Divinity Candy

- 4 cups sugar
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 3/4 cup water
- Dash of salt
- 3 egg whites
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional)

Combine sugar, corn syrup, water and salt in a 2-quart pot. Boil until it reaches 260 degrees on candy thermometer, stirring every few minutes. Beat egg whites until very stiff. Pour hot syrup gradually over the egg whites, beating at high speed for about 12 minutes or until thick and candy begins to lose gloss. Fold in vanilla and nuts. Pour into a buttered 9 x 11 inch pan or drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper.

Sees Chocolate Fudge

Put aside in a large mixing bowl:

- 2 cups chopped walnuts
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- 1-pint marshmallow cream
- 1/4 lb butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Bring to rolling boil for 8 minutes:

- 4 cups sugar
- 1 tall can Pet or Carnation milk

Pour over ingredients in large bowl and beat until smooth. Pour into 11 x 14 pan to cool. Makes 5 lbs.

Baked French Toast With Apples is great served for brunch.

Baked French Toast With Apples (6 to 8 servings)

This dish looks great when served right from the oven since the bread puffs up like a soufflé. Ten minutes later, the magical puff will have deflated, but the wonderful taste will still be there. But don't

skimp on the butter; without it the dish will not have the characteristic flavor of French Toast.

Do-ahead tips: The apple mixture can be made the day before. Assemble right before baking.

- 4 ounces (1 stick) unsalted butter, plus additional for the baking dish
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
- 4 large tart apples, such as Granny Smith, peeled, cored and thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon, plus additional for sprinkling on top
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch dissolved in 1 tablespoon cold water
- 12 slices firm white sandwich bread
- 6 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly butter a 9x13 inch-baking dish.

In a large sauté pan over medium-high heat, melt the butter. Add 1/4 cup of the sugar and cook, stirring constantly, until the sugar dissolves. Add the apples and 1/2 teaspoon of the cinnamon and cook until the apples are tender and have released their juices, about 10 minutes. Add the cornstarch mixture and cook, stirring, until the mixture boils and thickens. Remove from the heat; set aside to cool slightly. (May cover and refrigerate until ready to use.)

In a medium bowl, lightly beat the eggs. Add the milk, vanilla and remaining 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon and mix to combine. Pour the egg mixture over the bread and apple mixture. Gently press on any exposed slices of bread to submerge them so they can absorb the egg mixture. Set aside for 5 minutes.

Sprinkle the top of the layers with additional cinnamon to taste. Bake in preheated oven for about 30 minutes, until cooked through. The top should be firm, not wobbly. Serve immediately.

Recipes submitted by Louise Albin

*AFTER MORE THAN 22 YEARS
AT SKYLINE HOUSE*

*ADUA
IS RETIRING
SO, WE ARE HAVING
A PARTY*

*SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
6:00 P.M.
WEST PARTY ROOM*

*BRING YOUR OWN BEVERAGE AND A
DISH OF FINGER FOOD TO SHARE*

*PLEASE COME TO WISH
ADUA AND ED
MANY HAPPY YEARS
IN RETIREMENT!*

SPECIAL EVENTS AT SKYLINE HOUSE January 2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 TGIF 6:30 PM EPR	4
5	6 LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 PM ECR	7	8 SECURITY 7:00 PM WCR	9 PPOC 7:00 PM WCR	10	11
12	13 LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 ECR	14	15 COVENANTS 7:00 PM WCR	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Birthday LIBRARY CLOSED	21 FIN MGT 7:00 PM WCR	22 BOARD OF DIRECTORS 7:00 PM WCR	23	24	25 Retirement Party For ADUA 6:00 p.m. WPR
26	27 LIBRARY OPEN 7:00-8:00 PM ECR	28	29	30	31	

**Skyline House Unit Owners' Association, Inc.,
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Falls Church VA 22041-3711**