

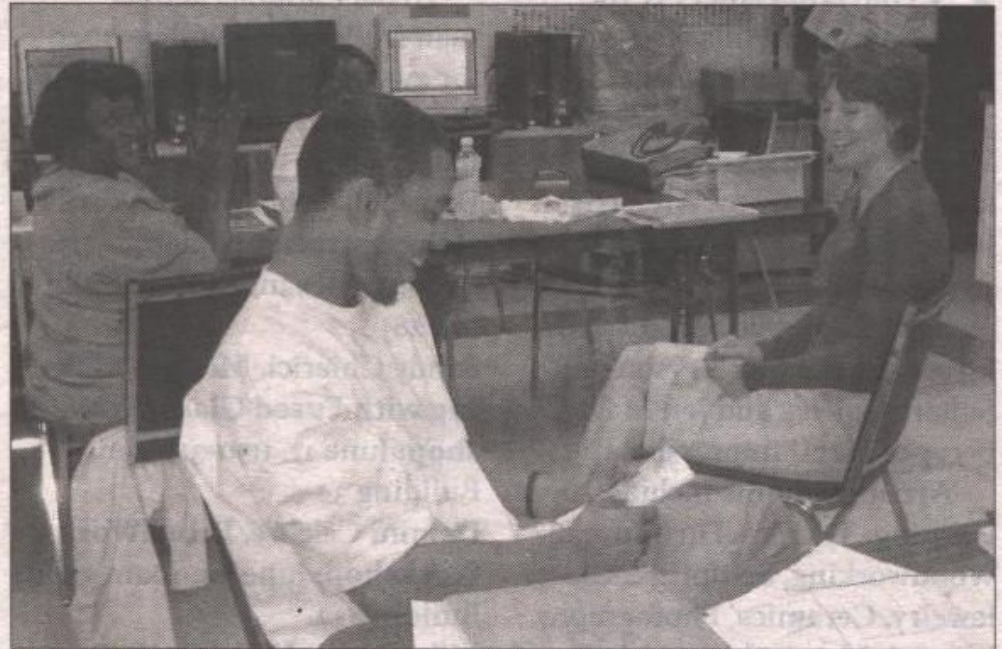
Community Learning Center to Host Old Academy's *The Glass Menagerie*

On Thursday evening, June 21st, the Old Academy Players will perform Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie* for students and supporters of Community Learning Center, a unique non-profit adult literacy program in Kensington. Founded 20 years ago, CLC offers free classes in Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Educational Development (GED) Preparation, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

The June 21st performance will begin at 8:00 p.m., and refreshments will be offered at intermission. Seats are \$25 each, and the proceeds will support Community Learning Center's programs. Donations are also accepted to enable CLC students to attend the production.

Located in East Falls, the Old Academy is the community theatre where Grace Kelly began her acting career. Starring in the role of Laura Wingfield in the Old Academy's production of *The Glass Menagerie* will be former CLC teacher Jennifer Williamson. Jennifer taught ABE/GED classes at Community Learning Center before pursuing an acting career.

Jennifer's first visit to the Old Academy was last June, when CLC held a theatre party at a performance of *Over the*



River and Through the Woods. CLC students and benefactors enjoyed the play so much that CLC held another fundraiser at a production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in November. Some 40 students and family members joined supporters at the performance. Many students had not previously had the opportunity to attend a play, and they enjoyed not only the show, but meeting the cast afterwards. Last fall, CLC classes read *To Kill a Mockingbird* and studied the Great Depression, the era in which the story is set. Carla Childs, who directed the Old Academy's production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, spoke to an ABE/GED class at CLC before the November event.

Jennifer Williamson recently visited an ABE/GED class and spoke to students about Ten-

nessee Williams, *The Glass Menagerie*, and how she has prepared for her demanding role. Jennifer surprised the class by saying that she learns her lines by writing them out—over and over if necessary—until she has memorized them. Under Jennifer's guidance, students read parts from one of the play's many interesting scenes. In another scene, Jennifer played her role as Laura while a student read the part of Jim O'Connor. Teacher Carol Miller used the scenes to teach vocabulary and review history relating to the Depression.

Everyone is welcome at Community Learning Center's June 21 theatre party. For more information about the fundraiser and CLC, visit www.communitylearningcenter.org or call 215-426-7940.