



# COVENTRY

## VILLAGE NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF COVENTRY VILLAGE NEIGHBORS INC.

September 1997

### *From the President's Den*

Since 1970 I have been predicting Academy Award nominations. Each year I keep a running list of possible films along with performances, directors and writers I feel did extraordinary work. Shortly before the nominations are announced in mid February I finalize a list of five names per category, type it and distribute it to a few friends who are interested (and to prove I'm not cheating!) I'm reasonably good at this game, guessing right with about 70 percent of the names. On a few occasions I've properly predicted all five of the nominees in a single category and often guess four out of five. I have been lucky with predictions for some unheard of people (Valentina Cortesa, Supporting Actress nominee for "Day For Night", Adolph Caesar for "A Soldiers Story", Margaret Avery for "The Color Purple" and Michael O'Keefe in "The Great Santini.") I have also been infuriated with the omission of some entertainers or movies missing, once the actual nominations were announced ("Do the Right Thing" and Spike Lee for his direction of that film, Al Freeman, Jr. in "Malcolm X", Susan Sarandon for "Bull Durham", Steve Martin for both "Roxanne" & "All of Me", John Wayne for "The Shootist", Diane Venora and Forest Whitaker in "Bird", Howard E. Rollins in "A Soldiers Story", Richard Farnsworth in "The Grey Fox", Zero Mostel in "The Front", Henry Gibson for "Nashville", James Cagney for "Ragtime", Mia Farrow for both "Broadway Danny Rose" & "The Purple Rose of Cairo", "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?", Danny Glover in "The Color Purple", Paul Dooley in "Breaking Away", "Blood Simple" and M. Emmett Walsh in that film.)

Most of all I enjoy the game. I don't however, really have the same passion for predicting the winners. By the time Oscar night comes along (my equivalent to the Super Bowl) the winner is usually a foregone conclusion (also similar to the Super Bowl I'm told.) Occasionally there is an upset in a minor category and it's fun to see if I can correctly guess the winner of the Editing and Cinematography statue, but the nomination game takes more of me to do properly and that's what I like.

I have started to finesse my 1997 list but the memory of a different electoral process has captured my thoughts; the

Cleveland Heights City Council race. While I consider myself to be reasonably well informed on issues and elections I probably paid more attention to this election than any other since I ran for Maple Heights City Council in 1979, primarily because Coventry Neighbors hosted a candidates night. After listening to the candidates, reading about each person and talking with everyone, I actually had a difficult time voting, because I truly felt every candidate would have served us well. I was very surprised to see the electoral outcome, not because one was more deserving than another, but for less definable reasons. I was curious why the electorate connected with those they did and why they ignored others. It couldn't have been the signs and bumper stickers. Jimmie Hicks had the most, hands down but I can't remember seeing even one for Nancy Dietrich. It couldn't have been endorsements otherwise Charles Bromley and Richard Secor would be taking a seat in council in January. Issues don't seem like the reason. In the fourteen years I have lived in Cleveland Heights I have listened to more complaints about skunks, leaves and garbage than any thing else combined. These were the central issues behind Mike Davis' candidacy, but he was unsuccessful. Overlooking Claudette Woodard proved that past electoral victory did not necessarily guarantee an encore.

Voters bring a lot of baggage to the polling place. This entourage crowds the process carrying personal influences, prejudices, likes, and dislikes, issues, personality, lifestyles and geography. The decisions that squeeze out of the voting booth are a blended mixture of these diverse opinions.

In 1974 Fred Astaire was undeservedly nominated for the first time as Best Supporting Actor in "The Towering Inferno" He justifiably lost to a powerful performance by newcomer, Robert De Niro in "The Godfather Part II". In 1985 Don Amechie was undeservedly nominated for his first Oscar as best Supporting Actor in "Cocoon". He proved victorious on Oscar night instead of Hungarian actor Klaus Maria Brandauer for "Out of Africa". Why did one Hollywood legend take home an Oscar over a more deserving opponent and another missed out? What convinced the voters to use sentiment, ignore superior work and reward a veteran performer once, but not again?

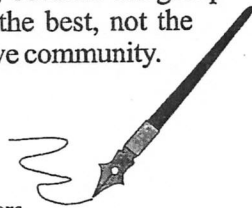
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In 1983, against insurmountable odds, Linda Hunt's magnificent supporting performance in "The Year of Living Dangerously" was the surprise winner. Her work was unquestionably the best and virtually every critic agreed. Cher in her first dramatic roll in "Silkwood" was the media darling of the year and many people expected her to win. The same was so for Judy Davis in 1992's "Husbands and Wives". For reasons still baffling to me, she lost to ingenue of the year, Marisa Tomei in "My Cousin Vinnie". How do two of the best supporting film performances in recent history come to such different ends? Again, academy voters brought their pesky opinions and personal baggage to the voting process. Linda Hunt played an Asian man, she's unusually short, she has a peculiar, articulate voice, it was a small Australian film starring newcomer Mel Gibson. Judy Davis played an uptight New Yorker in a Woody Allen movie during a less than popular time in his personal life. Votes were cast for reasons other than the main reason for voting. They were selected for personality traits, association, and aspects of the performance character, but not for the acting.

No matter how hard we try, it's impossible for we voters to subtract our personality from ourselves before we vote. We vote for the woman that lives down the street, the guy that used to head the PTA, the person with the same profession as us. In the case of my electoral loss, voters selected the guy that ran the Little League in Maple Heights. I guess that's not entirely wrong, because the group of elected officials are we. Not the best, not the worse, but a hybrid of the collective community. Who better to speak for us?

*Jeffrey R. Dross*  
President, Coventry Neighbors



## LEE BATDORFF WILL SPEAK AT CNI MEETING IN FEBRUARY

Lee Batdorff, Regional Issues Educator for the Ohio Sierra Club, Suburban Sprawl Education Project, will present a slide show documenting the circumstances and costs of urban sprawl. Building further away from the center city takes valuable resources away from neighborhoods such as ours. Its long-term effect results in growing financial, social and ecological impact. This is an issue that should concern you.

Please plan on attending Tuesday, February 10, 1998 at 7:45 p.m. at the Coventry Branch of the CH-UH Library.

## COVENTRY NEIGHBORS ELECTION

Elections are long overdue at Coventry Neighbors. Since September we have attempted to hold elections for Coventry Neighbors offices but have not had a meeting quorum. Jeff Dross has agreed to serve as President again, Bob Klemenc has consented to act as Treasurer. Board offices remain unfilled and Vice-President and Secretary are not spoken for. If you have any interest in working for your community with a pleasant gang of people, please come to the next meeting. We'd love to have you.

## CONGRATULATIONS BONNIE!

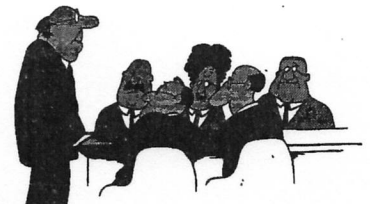
Coventry Neighbors is lucky to call Bonnie Caplan amongst its friends. Bonnie attends most every meeting, patiently answering questions and informing the meeting attendees' about all aspects of city involvement. It is good to see that the whole city realizes what the Coventry Community knows; Bonnie Caplan is a committed, excited, and energized community leader and we are lucky to have her in our city.

## NEW DISTRIBUTION POLICY

During the November meeting, we talked about possible changes in the way we distribute the Coventry Village News. This month we are going to put that idea into action. We have divided the Coventry neighborhood into six sections. We produce six issues of this newsletter each year. By the end of 1998, most every resident of our neighborhood should have received at least one issue. If this is the first issue you've seen, welcome! Coventry Neighbors wants to help keep Coventry the best neighborhood in the city, watching, learning and reacting when necessary. If you like what you see and would like to be part of improving your community, come to the meeting and/or become a member (see the back page.) We'd love to have your impute and your support!

## Join us

Tuesday, January 14  
7:45 P.M.  
at the Coventry Library



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The following letter came to us in response to our article last month concerning the future of Coventry Neighbors. There are some interesting ideas and comments here. We would love to hear from more readers. Perhaps some of your suggestions could be exactly what is needed to help our organization move forward. Thanks Mr. Jones.

*Dear Editor*

*Thought it appropriate to let you know what at least one subscriber feels about CNI.*

*Started membership many years back when I thought it important to support anything that might help Coventry grow and appreciate in value to the neighborhood. Fortuitously the folks working for CNI back then sure made that happen.*

*Along the way, my wife and I found that Coventry Village News was a terrific source of information about not only the immediate Coventry area but the city as a whole. We eagerly awaited each issue as a result. The Sun Press just didn't compare.*

*In recent years we feel that, at least from a business standpoint, Coventry is doing just fine. So it's realized that part of our earlier reason for joining. And the news portion has dropped away as well; no doubt due to the interests of the editors and CNI board, etc.*

*So we continue to support CNI and CVN more from habit than from real reasons to do so.*

*From my perspective, the best thing you could do is become the local version of Roldo Baltimore with Coventry as a focus. So increase your dues in a major way and hire Roldo or someone to write about Coventry and Cleveland Heights in a way that the Plain Dealer and Sun Press can't, or won't! By making a commercial venture with a social conscious, maybe CVS and CNI can invigorate themselves.*

*Thanks for your consideration.*

*William J. Jones*

## WELCOME NEIGHBORS!

Welcome to our new neighbors BD's Mongolian Barbecue, City Books, CD Warehouse and Caribou Coffee. The Courtyard Building looks great. It's nice to have this corner of our neighborhood active again.

## 1998 CALENDARS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

It's not too late. You can still get your copy of the 1998 Coventry Calendar at Mac's Back, High Tide, Rock Bottom, or Delphic Books.

Of course you can call Jeff at 321-0206 or Bob at 397-1254 for home delivery.

**Don't get shut out. It's worth the cheap \$5 price tag!**

## The 1998 Coventry Calendar is available



ONLY  
\$5

- ★ Homes of Overlook Road are featured
- ★ Many important dates are featured through the year

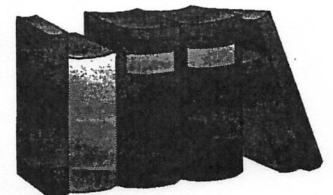
Call Jeff Dross at 321-0206  
or send \$5.00 to Bob Klemenc,  
1860 Cadwell Avenue, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
and it will be personally delivered

## GOOD LUCK PAT

Pat Carterette has been a friend of Coventry Neighbors since her promotion a few years ago. She has served as branch manager of the Coventry location of the CH-UH Library since Shonny Long's retirement. She attends most every meeting and offers every type of assistance.

Pat has just accepted a position with the Willowick Library system and will be leaving at the end of the year.

Thanks Pat and all the best in your future endeavors.  
*We'll miss you.*



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Coventry Village News is published by Coventry Neighbors, Inc. The newsletter is distributed free throughout Coventry Village. Mailed subscriptions are available. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:40 p.m. at the Coventry Village Library, Euclid Heights Boulevard. & Coventry Road.

When you join Coventry Neighbors, Inc. you can be sure of having a voice in shaping your neighborhood's future. Membership includes a subscription to the Coventry Village News.

**Editor:** Bruce Biddle

**Editorial Board:** Jeff Dross, Elsa Johnson, Bob Klemenc

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Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118		Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

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Individual \$7.50     Family \$10     Senior Citizen \$5

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_


ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CNI needs street representatives to communicate with the local neighborhoods and assist with the delivery of the newsletter.

**YES!** I would like to assist CNI by becoming a CNI representative for my street.


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Please return this form with your check to:

COVENTRY NEIGHBORS, INC.  
c/o Bob Klemenc  
  
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

## **COVENTRY** Village News

c/o Bruce Biddle, Editor

  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118