

Community Coalition for Social Justice
P.O. Box 160
Morgantown, West Virginia 26507-0160
ccsjwv@hotmail.com
www.geocities.com/ccsjwv/index.html

Update - 27 March 2003

I. CCSJ PROJECTS:

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, April 1, 7 p.m., 1st floor conference room - Knapp Hall, WVU - please contact Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu if you have issues for the steering committee to consider.

Coalition Discussion - Wednesday, April 9 - 7 p.m. - Jerry West Lounge, WVU Coliseum.

The Community Coalition for Social Justice, in cooperation with the Economic Justice Coalition, invites all our members, representatives of member organizations, and interested community members to join us to talk about how we can work best together as a coalition. What are our common interests? How can we best communicate? How can we support each other? With so much activity we town, we wanted an opportunity to strategize about the best ways to help each other.

For further information, please contact Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu or 293-2339 ext. 1155.

Economic Justice Committee - Next meeting - Tuesday, April 1, 6 p.m. - 713 Knapp Hall

This group is reviewing ordinances from cities similar in size to Morgantown. If you are interested in being involved in this project, please contact Dave Cormier at DRCormier@mail.wvu.edu or Paul Becker at Paul.Becker@mail.wvu.edu.

National Peace Foundation Speaker - Wednesday, April 30 - 7 p.m. - Jerry West Lounge, WVU Coliseum

Dr. Landis Jones, executive director of the National Peace Foundation and director of its Middle East Programs, is coming to Morgantown to talk about the work he has been doing directly with Palestinians from Gaza and Israelis and to give some perspectives on the issues there. The National Peace Foundation's mission is "to promulgate peacebuilding and conflict resolution at every level, from the community, to the regional, to the national and international."

The Morgantown Peace and Justice Coalition is co-sponsoring this event, and we welcome any other groups that wish to co-sponsor this event and any assistance you can give us in publicizing this around the community.

II. PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES AND IDEAS!

If you have not yet done so, please send your dues so that we have the resources to continue our work. **Dues are \$5 for individuals and \$25 for organizations.** Youth under the age of 18 are free. Please send your checks, payable to CCSJ, to PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160.

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Atfield at atfield@labyrinth.net.

Please contact any of the steering committee members to volunteer to help and to share your suggestions for our work or e-mail us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com.

Deadline for items to include in next Update will be April 20. Please send items to share with our membership to ccsjwv@hotmail.com.

If we can support your event or your issues in some way, please let us know, especially if you represent a member organization. We want to be a true coalition that unites groups and individuals interested in social justice, so please let us know how we can help and please send us information about your group to publicize to our membership.

III. PEACE ACTIVITIES IN MORGANTOWN

The Morgantown Peace and Justice Coalition (MPAJC) has been very, very busy over the past few weeks. Thanks to Ann Payne for sharing information about this group and other peace activities in Morgantown and the surrounding area.

Congratulations to Katy Ryan and her students for a wonderful production of *Lysistrata* on March 3 at Eiesland Hall! This was part of the international anti-war *Lysistrata* project.

On **Sunday, March 16**, about 200 people from the Morgantown area gathered on the plaza in front of the Mountainlair at 7 pm. MoveOn.org and the Win Without War Coalition, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and others called for these vigils at 7 p.m. local time around the world. For some incredible photos of these events, go to MoveOn's website at www.moveon.org. Photos were posted on the web for vigils in India before the Morgantown vigil even began, and there were at least 6903 vigils in 142 countries, according to the MoveOn website. MoveOn asked people to register to keep some kind of count of these vigils, and you can plug in a zipcode to see where these took place throughout the country.

MPAJC also has sponsored an ad in the *Dominion Post* expressing support for our troops and opposition to the war.

On Thursday, March 19, MPAJC sponsored a vigil at the corner of Patteson Drive and Route 705 at 5 p.m., again in coalition with vigils around the country to mark the start of the war.

Friday afternoon **Weekly Silent Vigils for World Peace** continue each week from 12:15-12:45 p.m. at the Courthouse Square on High Street in Morgantown. Morgantown Women Working for Peace and Justice is organizing these events. The vigil on March 21st attracted almost 60 people with many media representatives also there to document the event. For further information, contact Ann Payne at Paynestake@labs.net or Sharon Goodman at sjgoodman@adelphia.net

Sunday, March 30, at 9:00 AM, MPAJC LONG-TERM PLANNING MEETING - Monongalia Friends Meeting, Old Jerome Park School, Denver and Putnam Streets. MPAJC submitted a **resolution to City Council** on Tuesday, March 18, asking the City Council to join many cities around the country in opposing a pre-emptive war. The presentation was very impressive, with much data presented on the economic impact of this war on the United States, West Virginia, and Morgantown. Unfortunately, as we now know, the war began the next day. Although City Council moved the anti-first strike proposal off the agenda when war began, MJAPC read their draft revised mission/vision statement ("MPJAC opposes the use of violent means to resolve conflicts . . .") at the Public Session before the Committee of the Whole on March 25. Press coverage and other responses were very positive.

Upcoming events:

April 12: Washington, D.C.: International A.N.S.W.E.R. has organized their next huge rally in D.C. for this day. There is some discussion of organizing a bus to go from Morgantown for this rally. If interested, contact Ann Payne.

April 26: Greater Pittsburgh Re-convergence - Stay tuned for more details.

THE LIGHT OF REASON: PUT A LIGHT IN YOUR WINDOW

"We will continue waging peace, even if war comes . . . One simple way to show your continued commitment to this vision is to put a light in your window. It could be a Christmas string or candle, a light bulb, or a lantern. It's an easy way to keep the light of reason and hope burning, to let others know that they are not alone, and to show the way home to the young men and women who are on their way to Iraq. We'd like to keep a list of the places and people who are joining in this simple act."

Please sign up at: www.moveon.org/windowlight/

New Web Western Pennsylvania Peace Forum at forums.delphiforums.com/wpapeace/

Ann Payne reports that there are "Fascinating discussions already on this forum, so check it out."

Iraqi Civilian Body Count on the Web - View the following web site -

www.iraqbodycount.net/bodycount.htm - for an up-to-date, carefully calculated running total of Iraqi civilians killed in the U.S.-Iraq war. You can display this database free on your web site, too.

Urgent Peacework - Against all odds, there were enough signatures, e-mails, telegrams, and phone calls to Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich of Ohio to persuade him to introduce before the House of Representatives a little-known resolution that deprives the President of his authority to wage war, by returning war powers to Congress. However, we must now persuade Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert that there is a growing consensus, if not a plurality, to mandate the resolution for a House ballot. Therefore, please take a moment to e-mail Speaker Hastert, simply saying, "I am in favor of introducing HJ Resolution 20 for a vote." (See below.) And then please follow up with your congress people and senators. Always include your address or they will disregard the email.

Speaker Hastert's e-mail: Speaker@mail.house.gov.

Dear Speaker Dennis Hastert, I am in favor of introducing HJ Resolution 20 for a vote.
Sincerely, _____

Please do this NOW. And please forward to every other concerned citizen you know.

Support Humanitarian Efforts - MoveOn turns to the humanitarian disasters that will most likely follow from war in Iraq. MoveOn suggests an important action that will literally save lives and is highlighting one of the most prominent and capable relief groups - Oxfam. Go to their donation page to read more and give a generous contribution today: www.moveon.org/oxfam/. This will be a race against time to supply food, restore water and sanitation systems, and fight epidemic disease.

For further information about MPAJC, contact Ann Payne at paynestake@labyrinth.net or 292-7673. And thanks to Ann for supplying information used in this Update on peace activities.

For information about **Morgantown Women Working for Peace and Justice**, contact Sharon Goodman at 296-4610 or sjgoodman@adelphia.net. The next meeting of this group is **Monday, April 7, at 8 p.m.**

IV. UPCOMING EVENTS OF OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

PFLAG - PFLAG meets at Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship Hall (429 Warrick Street) at 1 p.m.

April 20 is the last scheduled meeting, at which the group will decide whether to continue. David Whaley is retiring. Therefore, it is very important that people who are interested in keeping the group going attend this meeting as there are people who are interested in presenting programs. According to David, "We are looking for a critical mass of those who will divide the work, & maintain it reliably, so no one person burns out." The church will continue to be available for meetings. For more information, please contact David at David.Whaley@mail.wvu.edu.

WVU Center for Black Culture and Research

African Student Association (ASA) at West Virginia University will be hosting its first annual conference on 12 April 2003 entitled **African Student Association 2003 Conference on the African Diaspora**. ASA and the Center for Black Culture and Research, co-sponsor, cordially invite you to share your experiences and expertise with the West Virginia University community. The conference is motivated by the increasing need to create a platform for united academic discussions based on ideas, research, and personal experience of people from the diasporas. We believe the conference will provide an excellent opportunity for networking, educating and uniting. As conference organizers, we are seeking out participants that have carried out research about the African Diaspora and people qualified in leading empowering workshops. The conference welcomes all people regardless of background. Participants may present papers, discuss personal experiences, partake in workshops and/or simply be an observant. Information should be presented in a manner for all audience members to understand regardless of their discipline.

The program will start at 9:30 am and commence by 5:10pm. Sessions vary in length but each presenter has approximately 20 minutes for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions and discussion. ASA is sponsoring a lunch at E. Moore Hall for more discussion.

If you would like to participate in this year's conference as a presenter, please email an abstract (of no more than 300 words) or description via e-mail to bfrey@geo.wvu.edu by 5 April 2003. Abstracts should include: Title of presentation, name, department, mailing address, email address, and telephone number. We are in need of workshop presenters, too.

For further information or to volunteer to help, contact: Brie Frey, Education and Public Affairs Officer, ASA, at bfrie@geo.wvu.edu or Department of Geology and Geography, West Virginia University 425 White Hall, Morgantown, WV 26506

WVU Center for Women's Studies

The Center for Women's Studies, WVU Council for Women's Concerns, and West Virginia Women's Studies Network, and WVU students of FEM (Female Equality Movement) co-sponsored **Mom's Turn to Learn Day** on March 24 at the Morgantown Mall. This was a very successful event in terms of giving women information about educational opportunities available at WVU, Monongalia Technical Education Center, Opportunities Industrialization Center, and the Morgantown Beauty Academy, . Thanks to the Women's Business Institute of West Virginia and Morgantown Area Chamber of Commerce for their support, also.

V. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

WVU Gay Pride Week - March 31st – April 2003 - Tentative Schedule Announced

- Monday - GLBT-themed movie night in the Gluck Theater.
- Tuesday - Panel discussion.
- Thursday - Poetry reading at 7 pm, then an event at Vice Versa.
- Friday - Alix Olson at 123 Pleasant Street.
- Saturday - Picnic and softball.

For further information, contact Elena Knight mackamboohotmail.com

GLBT Store in Pittsburgh area: Ellenbee's Rainbow Books & Gifts, Beth McCoulough & Lori Daylaida / POB 69, Natona Heights, PA 15065 / loribeth@cdumail.com

NGLTF study of families: for more information, see www.nglftf.org/library/familypolicy.htm

From Spence C.R. Carver Lee of the Rainbow Community Center in Clarksburg: Each year, the **Colin Higgins Foundation** salutes, celebrates, and fosters courage in the face of adversity and discrimination by awarding grants (**Courage Awards**) to individuals who are either:

- * Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning youth who have bravely stood up to hostility and intolerance based on their sexual orientation and triumphed over bigotry.
- * Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer adults who have made strong impact in the lives of LGBTQ youth or the overall LGBTQ movement.
- * Allies of any age working to end homophobia and discrimination against the LGBTQ communities.

In 2003, three Courage Award Honorees will each receive a \$5,000 grant and sponsorship to attend the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change conference on November 5-9 in Miami Beach, Florida.

Go to www.colinhiggins.org/courageawards for more details. The deadline for nomination is May 25, 2003. No one from West Virginia has ever received this award.

The **Hate-crime Network** is an online network that links hate-crime victims with victim-assistance organizations, law enforcement, civil rights agencies, media, elected officials, anti-violence advocates, and concerned citizens. The network serves all victims of hate crimes regardless of location or bias-motivation and offers online hate-crime reporting, information & referrals, and support.

(International) Hate-Crime Network: www.hate-crime.net

(U.S./North America) Hate Crime National Hotline: 866-654-5254

The Hate-Crime Network volunteers from all over the world receive immediate e-mail notifications about reported hate crimes. Volunteers then offer their help by sending letters of support directly to the victims. The Network serves all who are affected by intolerance, discrimination, and prejudice worldwide.

From Ann Payne comes news of **NEW SUNDAY COMMUNITY EDUCATION EVENTS** : Partners in Peace in Salem is kicking off a series of Community Educational Events to promote understanding of world affairs.

CONVERSATIONS ON PEACE, Dr. Devon McNamara, noted poet and WV Wesleyan Professor of English, will give a talk, a poetry reading, and hold a dialogue with attendees on **Sunday, April 6**, at 4:30 p.m. at Room 128 of Carlson Hall, Salem International University.

Bring a dollar or two if you can to put towards pizza afterward, and stay for **Dr. John Warner's talk on Israel and Palestine at 6 p.m.** in the same room. Dr. Warner, WV Wesleyan professor of sociology, specializes in the study of minorities (racial, religious, ethnic, gender). An activist and long-time member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Warner was Boston F.O.R field worker. from 1962-64 and marched in DC for ML King. He protested the development of chemical and biological weapons at Ft. Dietrich in 1959 and was a civil rights worker in Laurel, MI in 1964. He was arrested in front of the South Africa Embassy in DC in 1985.

FREE SPEECH DURING WARTIME: Sunday, April 13th, 6: 00 p.m. , Dr. Stephen Cresswell, history professor at WV Wesleyan, gives the history of free speech during wartime in the U.S. His talk includes Eugene Debs' ten-year prison sentence for publicly saying that the rich declare the wars and the poor fight them and how it relates to gaining and maintaining public support for war.
Room 128 of Carlson Hall, Salem International University

Directions: From I-79 take the Clarksburg Exit 119. Head West on Rt. 50 to Rt. 23 (2nd Salem Exit). Make a left on Rt. 23, then the first right to the campus of Salem International University. Park in the first parking lot on the right; Carlson is across from the chapel.

If you need further information, please contact Linda Ireland, Partners in Peace: irelandlinda@yahoo.com
Phone 304-782-4187

The **Hate-Crime Network** is an online network at www.hate-crime.net that links hate-crime victims with victim-assistance organizations, law enforcement, civil rights agencies, media, elected officials, anti-violence advocates, and concerned citizens. The network serves all victims of hate crimes regardless of location or bias-motivation and offers online hate-crime reporting, information & referrals, and support. (U.S./North America) Hate Crime National Hotline: 866-654-5254

CCSJ Steering Committee 2002-2003

Tim Hairston (Monongalia-Preston Labor Council AFL-CIO), Interim President. President. Al Anderson, Vice President. Barbara Howe (WVU Center for Women's Studies), Secretary. Gregory Wagner, Treasurer. Mike Attfield. Paul Becker. Judy Cohen. Lourdes Cottingham (Equality for All Americans). Kris Hash. Jacqueline Moseley. Michael Sharley.