

Community Coalition for Social Justice
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Update: 28 April 2003

Note: We're sure there is more going on than we have found to report here, although with WVU's semester ending, the major fighting apparently over in Iraq, and spring in full bloom in Morgantown, maybe we can take time to relax for a day or so?

I. CCSJ PROJECTS:

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, May 6, 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.

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. Free parking is available at the Coliseum, and the Coliseum is accessible for those with disabilities.

Coalition Discussion - Wednesday, April 9

The Community Coalition for Social Justice, in cooperation with the Economic Justice Coalition (EJC), joined forces for an informal discussion on working together to address issues of common concern. Several members of the Monongahela Peace and Justice Coalition (MPAJC) attended. We talked about the agendas of our individual groups and the challenges/opportunities of balancing the interests and energies of WVU students, who are here for a comparatively short period of time or who may be interested in one particular current issue with the interests and energies of those who have lived in the

community for a longer time and have worked on a wide range of issues over time. Mike Bomberg reminded us that the EJC has a website available on which to post events. The URL is www.wvejc.org, and it is easy to post events on this site. The West Virginia EJC and United Students Against Sweatshops also sponsored a conference called "Got Democracy?" this past weekend.

We decided that we should try to do one event a year that is coordinated by EJC, MPAJC, and CCSJ, plus any others interested. We tentatively decided this would be in conjunction with CCSJ's annual meeting in September and discussed some possible names of speakers for such an event. If you have suggestions, please contact Barb Howe.

Economic Justice Committee - Next meeting - Wednesday, May 7, 6 p.m. - 713 Knapp Hall

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.

Diversity Week Program to be on Slave Narratives - Coming in October!

CCSJ and the Center for Black Culture and Research are co-sponsoring a program for WVU's Diversity Week on Sunday, October 26 - how's that for advance notice?? This will be at 3 pm. in the Gluck Theater of the WVU Mountainlair. The program will be focused on slave narratives, *using Unchained Memories: Readings from the Slave Narratives*, a book/HBO documentary.

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 Attfield at attfield@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 May 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

The weekly peace vigils have ended at the Monongalia County Courthouse Square - thanks to all of you who came out to participate in these. Ann Payne reports that there is discussion of a statewide West Virginia Peace Network being formed under the leadership of the West Virginia Patriots for Peace. The first meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, April 29, in Clarksburg. More than fifty peace activists will meet to build a cohesive state peace initiative & clarify strengths and goals. Stay tuned for further information or contact Ann at paynestake@labs.net. Report forthcoming!

The Monongahela Peace & Justice Coalition will meet on Wednesday, May 7, at 5:30 p.m. for a brown bag supper. RSVP to paynestake@labs.net.

MoveOn.org, which so effectively mobilized people around the world to protest the war, is now organizing for the 2004 elections. For further information, contact MoveOn at www.moveon.org.

IV. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Parkersburg PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) group has an on-line resource entitled "Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation & Youth: A Primer for Principals, Educators and School Personnel." This is available at pflagparkersburg.org/justfacts.htm.

The **WVU Center for Black Culture and Research** will host its annual Carter G. Woodson Awards Ceremony on Saturday, March 17, at 6:00 p.m. in Hatfield's at the WVU Mountainlair to honor outstanding students, faculty, and staff associated with the center.

The **Coalition for West Virginia Women will be meeting in Morgantown on Saturday, May 31**, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Red Cross headquarters in White Birch Tower (1255 Pineview Drive). Everyone is welcome to attend. For further information, please contact Barb Howe. This organization was formed last fall and provides an opportunity to talk about issues of common concern to women around the state. Some of the upcoming projects focus on increasing voter registration and encouraging women to pursue education in the state.

The WVU Women's Studies Program and FACDIS (Faculty and Staff Development in International Studies) will sponsor a week-long seminar on **Women in Islam**, starting June 1. Fifteen faculty from campuses throughout the state will be in Morgantown for the program, which is funded through the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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. Deb Strouse (WV Center for Dispute Resolution).