

**Community Coalition for Social Justice**  
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**[www.geocities.com/ccsjwv/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/ccsjwv/index.html)**

**Update: 30 May 2003**

## **I. CCSJ PROJECTS**

**Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 7 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room - Knapp Hall, WVU - please contact Barb Howe at [barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu) if you have issues for the steering committee to consider.**

### **Economic Justice Committee**

If you are interested in being involved in this project, please contact Dave Cormier at [DRCormier@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:DRCormier@mail.wvu.edu). We have decided to look at conducting a community income analysis for Morgantown and Monongalia County. This would give us a picture of what people earn in the area, what jobs they hold, and where they live so that we can see how residents of nearby counties fare compared to the standards set in the West Virginia Self-Sufficiency Study and compared to the federal poverty line.

### **Annual Meeting Coming in September**

The CCSJ annual meeting will be held in September at the Senior Monongalians Center on High Street. Stay tuned for date (probably week of September 22<sup>nd</sup>) and time and program. We are hoping this will include a joint program with the Economic Justice Coalition and Monongahela Peace and Justice Coalition to build on our efforts to create coalitions around issues of common concern.

We will be looking for new steering committee members to be chosen at the annual meeting. If you are interested in helping in this way, please contact Tim Hairston at [questz1z@netscape.net](mailto:questz1z@netscape.net)

### **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. 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. Al Anderson will sing spirituals appropriate to the readings. This year, students in WVU's Orientation 101 classes can get credit for attending our program; they are

required to attend one event during Diversity Week, and we appreciate David Stewart's support in getting this listed among the official events for that requirement.

### **City Council Supports Library Project Again**

Many thanks to the City of Morgantown City Council and Dan Boroff, city manager, for providing \$1000 in support for CCSJ's library project in the 2003-2004 city budget. These funds will be available after July 1, and we will use them to purchase books for the Morgantown Public Library that focus on disabilities issues for children. Thanks to Suzanne Gosden, who works at the Job Accommodation Network, we have a long list of potential books to purchase, and you can see Suzanne's bibliography on our web site. The staff at the library will make the final decisions, and we are hoping to have these books available for display at our annual meeting.

### **Steering Committee Members Judge Social Justice Fair Projects**

Deb Strouse and Mike Sharley were judges for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade social justice fair that Nora Sheets' students produced at St. Francis School on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations to Nora for all her innovative work to promote social justice with her students.

### **CCSJ Participates in West Virginia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Hearing**

Tim Hairston, interim president of CCSJ, represented us at the public hearing that the West Virginia Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights held at the WVU College of Law Lugar Courtroom on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The committee's report, entitled "Civil Rights Issues in West Virginia," discusses police-community relations, treatment of racial minorities and people with disabilities in the public schools, civil rights issues related to employment, hate crimes, and a community climate of intolerance. The report was accepted for publication in November 2002 so, while it mentions the civil rights teams in the schools, it but does not discuss the challenges to these teams that began last fall. The steering committee decided that our comments should focus on the need for these teams, as well as the need to include sexual orientation and disabilities in the state's hate crimes law. For a copy of the report, which is based heavily on transcripts of public hearings held in Logan (1998), Morgantown (1999), and Charleston (2000), go to the commission's web site at [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov).

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:ccsjwv@hotmail.com).

Deadline for items to include in next Update will be June 20. Please send items to share with our membership to [ccsjwv@hotmail.com](mailto: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. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **Coalition for West Virginia Women is 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.

**Fostering Constructive Conversations Training: Learning Skills for Communicating with People with Different Views from Your Own - Sunday, June 8, 1:30-5 p.m.** Monongalia Friends Meeting House, Jerome Park

From Ann Payne: "How often have you said, "I don't talk about the war at work, it's too difficult," or "My neighbors have different views so we stay away from that topic," or "I ignore people who yell at me when I protest on the street corner?" This training will refine your skills for listening and communicating with others in a non-threatening way.

The trainers are Scilla Wahrhaftig, a Pittsburgh Friend trained in dispute resolution and mediation (she hosted that heart-warming lunch for us at the Pittsburgh Convergence March) and her husband Paul Wahrhaftig, president of Conflict Resolution Center International and mediator for 25 years

The minimal charge of \$10 covers training materials (Scholarships available). Also, CCSJ will sponsor registration for up to 5 people, so please contact Barb Howe if you would like to be one of these 5.

Please act quickly. Open to only 15 participants, this workshop is the first and only one of it's kind held in Morgantown. Reserve your place by contacting Ann at [paynestake@labryinth.net](mailto:paynestake@labryinth.net) or by calling 292-7673 a.s.a.p. Spaces are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Sponsored by the Monongahela Peace and Justice Coalition, Catholic Community Services and the Monongalia Friends Meeting.

**Public Invitation Town Meeting to Discuss Racial Disparity in the Juvenile Justice System -** According to the "Bar Blast," an e-mail newsletter from the West Virginia Bar Association, "The public, including representatives from juvenile justice, education, social service, civic, religious, and other community groups, including peace officers, prosecutors, attorneys, advocates, policymakers, court officials, corrections personnel, social service agencies, and minority juveniles and their families is invited to discuss racial disparity in the juvenile justice system."

The first meeting was in Huntington on May 15<sup>th</sup>, and there will be eight additional Town Meetings held in the fall in Beckley, Charleston, **Fairmont**, Franklin, Martinsburg, Parkersburg, Welch, and Wheeling. We assume the other meetings will be similar to the Huntington meeting, which was “held to address individual concerns and experiences about what contributes to racial disparity in the juvenile justice system in West Virginia to encourage community discussion, work together, and to look forward to create a shared vision of eliminating racial and minority disparity in West Virginia.

The West Virginia Task Force to Study Perceived Racial Disparity in the Juvenile Justice System is sponsoring the Town Meeting to access actual data and perceptions concerning minority/racial disparity in the state to report to the West Virginia Supreme Court. The Task Force encourages written comments to be considered for discussion before the Town Meeting. Public comments at the meeting will be limited to a specific amount of time. If you have any questions contact Julie C. Palas, Special Projects Counsel at [juliepalas@courtswv.org](mailto:juliepalas@courtswv.org) or 304-558-0145. Please submit your comments to West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Task Force to Study Perceived Racial Disparity in the Juvenile Justice System, 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East, Building One, Room E-100, Charleston, WV 25305 or [juliepalas@courtswv.org](mailto:juliepalas@courtswv.org).”

We will keep you posted as we learn more details of the Fairmont meeting.

### **2003 Cyrus R. Vance Award for International Education in West Virginia**

This award is presented to an educator or educational organization at either K-12 or postsecondary level “that best exemplifies Mr. Vance’s dedication to the understanding of international issues and affairs.” The award includes \$5000 “to advance the winner’s endeavors in the field of international education.” Applications are due August 1, 2003. For further information, contact Jay Cole, deputy secretary of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, at [jcole@wvosea.org](mailto:jcole@wvosea.org) or call 304-558-2440.

### ***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).