

Community Coalition for Social Justice
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www.geocities.com/ccsjwv/index.html

Update: 27 June 2003

I. CCSJ PROJECTS

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, July 15, 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.

Economic Justice Committee

If you are interested in being involved in this project, please contact Dave Cormier at DRCormier@mail.wvu.edu. We have started to do a community income analysis for Morgantown and Monongalia County. This will 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 22nd) 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

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.

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 June 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. NEWS OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Thanks to the **Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living and WVU-ACE/WVEA** for renewing their organizational memberships to CCSJ.

According to its web site (www.nwvcil.org), “The Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living (NWVCIL) is committed to the philosophy that all persons have equal access and unconditional value, that all individuals shall be respected for their uniqueness and shall have the right to live within the community of their choice, having equal access to participate in and contribute to that community. NWVCIL strives to be directed by the individual it serves, responding to the preferences and needs of each. NWVCIL assists in breaking down all barriers faced by persons with disabilities, offering support to empower each to bridge their paths to independence. Through Advocacy and Education, the Center's goal is to create communities which open their doors to all members and which facilitates total inclusion while supporting the wholeness and dignity of the individual” For further information, contact NWVCIL at 601-3 East Brockway Avenue, Suites A&B, Morgantown, WV 26501; phone: 304-296-6091 or toll free at 1-800-834-6408.

WVU-ACE/WVEA stands for Association of Concerned Employees/West Virginia Education Association; it represents faculty and staff at WVU. For further information, contact WVU-ACE/WVEA at 1137 Van Voorhis Road, Morgantown 26505 or call 598-3900.

The Rev. Charles Spring, Presbyterian campus minister, is retiring this spring. Charlie moved to Morgantown in 1977 and has been working with WVU students, faculty, staff, and administrators, as well as the Morgantown community, to promote social justice ever since. CCSJ wishes Charlie a wonderful retirement!

The **WVU Center for Women’s Studies** received approval for a major in women’s studies from the WVU Board of Governors. For further information about this opportunity, contact Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu or call 293-2339 ext. 1155.

IV. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Morgantown Human Rights Commission** meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Public Safety Building at 7:30 p.m., so the next meeting will be Tuesday, July 8th. Meetings are open to all who are interested. Mike Sharley has volunteered to be the CCSJ steering committee liaison to attend the commission meetings. If you are interested in the commission’s work, please contact T. Anne Hawkins, chair, at TAHawkins@mail.wvu.edu.

HOWARD DEAN CAMPAIGN GROUP SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

*Please note: CCSJ, as a not-for-profit organization, can not and does not endorse or support any political candidate for any office at any level. However, in the interest of promoting activism among our members, we are passing along this message from Gwen Bergner, a CCSJ member. If you are involved in another candidate's campaign at the **local** level and would like that to be advertised in an issue of Update, please send the information to Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu. We will announce the fact that your group is open to those interested and give contact information. Please do not provide general interest national web sites for candidates unless they are part of a message about a local group. Thanks!*

Gwen Bergner is involved with a local group working on the campaign for Howard Dean, former Governor of Vermont, who is a Democratic candidate for president in 2004. According to Gwen, "Anyone interested in issues of social justice can check out Dean's policies and platform at his website www.deanforamerica.com." Also, she reports that "There's a national grassroots movement of Dean supporters who meet at local venues and organize themselves through the website Meetup. Meetup is not run by the Dean campaign. It's an independent, grassroots movement. This movement for Dean has been covered in several national news media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *The New Republic*, and *Newsweek*" Morgantown Meetups for Dean take place on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7 pm. The location varies according to the preferences of the folks who sign up to meet. . . . Anyone interested can sign up at the Meetup website dean2004.meetup.com."

If you are interested, please contact Gwen at gbergner@wvu.edu.

SAVE MASSACHUSETTS RAPE CRISIS CENTERS

If you want to extend your activism beyond West Virginia, the Institute for Women's Policy Research has distributed the following message from www.StopFamilyViolence.org and Jane Doe Inc., the Massachusetts statewide coalition against sexual assault and domestic violence (www.JaneDoe.org) to encourage people from around the country to join this lobbying effort: "The unthinkable has happened in Massachusetts. After months of intensive budget advocacy and tremendous support from the Governor and members of the Legislature, the final state budget for FY04 was released - and it eliminates 75% of public funding for rape crisis centers and sexual assault services in Massachusetts.

"The impact of these cuts will be devastating, forcing up to 13 of the 18 rape crisis centers to close within the coming months. In addition the ONLY statewide 24-hour/7 days a week hotline for Spanish speaking victims of sexual assault also lost its state funding. And the domestic violence and sexual assault intervention services for immigrants and refugees has also been slashed. . . .

"YOU CAN HELP!!

Jane Doe Inc. launched a fundraising campaign in conjunction with the sexual assault and rape crisis centers in the Coalition to help SAVE MASSACHUSETTS RAPE CRISIS CENTERS. The SAVE MASSACHUSETTS RAPE CRISIS CENTERS Campaign aims to raise \$150,000 within the next few weeks and an additional \$650,000 by December 30, 2003. 100% of all donations to SAVE MASSACHUSETTS RAPE CRISIS CENTERS Campaign will be distributed to the Rape Crisis Centers." For further information, contact www.JaneDoe.org. Or call the Jane Doe Inc. office at 617-557-1811

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. Judy Cohen. Lourdes Cottingham (Equality for All Americans). Kris Hash. Jacqueline Moseley. Michael Sharley. Deb Strouse (WV Center for Dispute Resolution).