

Community Coalition for Social Justice
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Update: 31 July 2003

I. CCSJ PROJECTS

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, August 12, 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.

Annual Meeting Set for September 24

The CCSJ annual meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 24**, at the Senior Monongalians Center on High Street at 7 p.m.. Our guest speaker will be **Rick Wilson, who works with the American Friends Service Committee West Virginia Economic Justice Project**. While we don't yet have an official title for this program, the newsletter for the West Virginia Economic Justice Project lists several recent projects that should be of interest to our members. These include:

- working in support of a lawsuit before the West Virginia Supreme Court, challenging welfare time limits
- promoting *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for West Virginia*
- working with others to prevent changes in West Virginia Works legislation that would have removed children of adults with disabilities from welfare rolls by counting SSI as family income
- training programs on economic justice issues
- publicizing racial disparities in the juvenile justice system
- work with West Virginia Patriots for Peace and exploring "bringing people together to talk and look for positive ways to respond to the war and its consequences on several fronts."
- developed model state family literacy program
- work on a case to the West Virginia Supreme Court to get due process for families requesting extensions to the cut-off of TANF funds after 60 months.

This will be a joint program with the Monongahela Peace and Justice Coalition and, perhaps, the Economic 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

Library Books Project

The Morgantown Public Library staff is working on purchasing the books we are donating with funds from the Morgantown City Council. This year's collection will focus on children's books about disabilities. Thanks to WVU's Suzanne Gosden for compiling this list for us. Since the library had only 5 of the books on Suzanne's list, we're sure these new additions will be very valuable to many people. You can find a copy of the list on our CCSJ website.

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 August 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 MEMBERS

Nora Sheets will be in Tuzla, Bosnia from August 7-17, working with **ArtReach of Atlanta** on outreach to children and teachers and delivering art supplies and school supplies. According to a recent e-mail from Nora, "Each year, thousands of children around the world are the victims of severe trauma brought on by war. Many of these children suffer emotionally from this trauma. They are unable to outwardly express their fear, anger, and insecurity. If they cannot deal with the emotional damage experienced during childhood, many of these children can become emotionally dysfunctional adults. The result could be a life of pain and failure for each victim, and potentially even the continuation of the cycle of violence in war torn areas. The consequences of not dealing with this problem are exponential. As these children marry and raise families, their children are likely to have difficulty as well. Moreover, the communities where these children live will be deprived of the benefit of their creativity and productivity during their adult working years. Since many of the places hit by war and violence where these children live are striving to rebuild their civil liberty, the contribution of every citizen is needed.

"In Bosnia alone, tens of thousands of children have been traumatized by war and ethnic cleansing. Although the shooting may have stopped for now, deep emotional wounds remain for these children. The clock is ticking as these wounded children grow into adulthood. The ArtReach Foundation of Atlanta addresses the rising generation in regions that have been severely wounded by war by sending teams of art therapists and teachers to work with the teachers and children."

"Research has shown that expressive art is an enormously effective means of helping traumatized children cope with their problems and equip themselves to lead productive lives. Providing art expression in a safe, therapeutic, and educational setting allows children to express residual anger and resentment, work through emotions related to trauma, and discover renewed hope with a strengthened sense of self. ArtReach organizes, develops, and provides

resources for programs that offer creative problem-solving and expressive art activities for children who have been emotionally traumatized. ArtReach hopes to work in other areas in the future such as Sierra Leone and Kososvo..”

Nora promises a report when she returns, so we’ll tell you about her adventures in another Update!

If you would like to share your social justice work with our readers, please send that information to Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu.

IV. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a **regional conference for Women in Black** chapters in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia on Saturday, September 29th, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Whittaker Campus Center of Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. According to the conference announcement, “All current members of Women In Black chapters and all those interested in joining or learning more about the movement. Though billed as a regional conference, this event is open to members from chapters anywhere in the U.S. or elsewhere who are able to attend.” The fee will be approximately \$15-\$20 per person. For more information, please contact WOMEN IN BLACK FREDERICK, MARYLAND, Andrea Norouzi and Megan Swindro, 1350 Rohrersville Road, Knoxville, Maryland 21758, 301/834-7581, andibonita@earthlink.net or wibfrederick@mizmail.com.

For more information about Women in Black, as a network, see www.womeninblack.org.uk or www.womeninblack.net. According to the UK web site, “Women in Black (WiB) is a world-wide network of women committed to peace with justice and actively opposed to injustice, war, militarism and other forms of violence.”

The **Southern Poverty Law Center** has a new campaign “to help college students deal with the tragedy of hate and bias on campus.” According to SPLC, “**10 Ways to Fight Hate on Campus** will be ready for release in September, and our immediate goal is to put a free copy of *10 Ways* into the hands of 100,000 college students across the country.” The goal of this publication is to “show students, faculty, and staff:

. . . How to recognize hate crimes and bias incidents . . . effective ways to speak out against hate on campus . . . how a bias incident can be used to teach tolerance . . . the best ways to support the victims of hate, including their worried parents . . . and much more.”

Free copies will be sent to college student organizations and admissions offices with the cooperation of the Association of Colleges and Universities and the Association of College Unions International. The publication will also be available on the web through SPLC’s tolerance.org web site.

Please help spread the word about this valuable publication!

CCSJ Steering Committee 2002-2003

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