

Community Coalition for Social Justice  
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**Update: 2 October 2003**

## **I. CCSJ PROJECTS**

**Next Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 7 p.m., Place to be announced. 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.**

### **Annual Meeting on September 24**

The CCSJ annual meeting was held on **Wednesday, September 24**, at the Senior Monongalians Center on High Street at 7 p.m.. Our guest speaker was **Rick Wilson**, who works with the American Friends Service Committee West Virginia Economic Justice Project. The title of his talk was "Bread and Roses: Economic Justice Issues in West Virginia." "Bread and Roses" was the slogan for an International Workers of the World-led strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1912, and Wilson stressed that economic justice should mean having the right to basic needs (food) as well as human dignity (roses).

Wilson pointed out that, while there are dramatic demonstrations of economic justice, as in the films "Norma Rae" and "Matewan," most work is much more mundane and routine. He offered the following "practical and effective rules of the street": like the Hippocratic oath for doctors, "first do no harm," i.e., do not do things that will backfire on you and your cause; don't manipulate people to take risks that will hurt them; and, if you cannot wait, do not do it. What you can accomplish, he said, is a function of the objective conditions ("how long is your leash?") and what we can do about the conditions by working together. In doing economic justice work, he suggested three things to do all the time that work: help people right now do the best job they can, given current conditions; have specific campaigns; and build bigger and better coalitions that allow you to build social capital. As a martial arts expert, Wilson suggested looking to the martial arts for tactics such as gaining maximum efficiency from minimum effort so that we conserve our energy while making others expend their energy. Use skill and be flexible. Pick battles carefully, and you can usually find the solution within the problem itself. He concluded by saying that if you "do good useful stuff, people will listen to you."

He also brought copies of the *Guide for Working Families*, which he and Carol Sharlip compiled for the American Friends Service Committee West Virginia Economic Justice Project. Support for the book came from Alternative Gifts International; Crandall, Pyles, Haviland & Turner Foundation, Inc.; Sound Partners for Community Health/WV Public Radio; West Virginia Community Voices Partnership; West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council; and West Virginia Welfare Reform Coalition. For copies of the book, which is free of charge, contact Rick at [rwilson@afsc.org](mailto:rwilson@afsc.org) or call 304-529-3890.

We were pleased to sponsor this program with the Monongahela Peace and Justice Coalition and the West Virginia University Students for Economic Justice as part of our on-going effort to create coalitions around issues of common concern.

Thanks to Suzanne Gosden, who has agreed to serve on the steering committee. We still have some vacancies, so please contact Tim Hairston at [questz1z@netscape.net](mailto:questz1z@netscape.net) if you are interested in helping in this way.

### **Library Books Project**

Mike McClung of the Morgantown Public Library came to our meeting with our new books, which focus on children and disabilities. You can access these books through our updated brochure, which was available at the meeting and is at the public library. If you are interested in copies of the brochure to distribute to groups interested in this topic, please contact Barb Howe at [barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu) or 293-2339 ext. 1155. Suzanne Gosden is interested in working with the public library to do a program to publicize these books and help people learn how to use them.

### **Diversity Week Program to be on Slave Narratives - Coming October 26 - 3 p.m. - WVU Gluck Theater!**

CCSJ, the Center for Black Culture and Research, and the WVU Division of Social Work 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, and a variety of people will participate in the readings so please come to see your friends and. 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.

Please check WVU's Social Justice Office web page at [www.wvu.edu/~socjust/diversity-week.htm](http://www.wvu.edu/~socjust/diversity-week.htm) for a complete schedule of events when it is posted. Most events should be free and open to the public.

### **Economic Justice Committee**

If you are interested in working on local economic justice issues, please contact David Cormier at [DRCormier@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:DRCormier@mail.wvu.edu).

## **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 September 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. NEWS OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

### **MORGANTOWN NOW**

We welcome NOW back as a member of CCWJ. The **Morgantown chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW)** will meet next on Sunday, **October 12th**, at 7 pm. in the Laurel Room of the WVU Mountainlair. FEM (WVU student group) will be hosting this meeting for NOW. The speaker will be Margaret Chapman, director of West Virginia FREE, the state-wide pro-choice coalition, and there will be an update on the plans to have a large Morgantown contingent at the April 25<sup>th</sup> march in Washington, D.C., for reproductive rights. For further information, please contact Kelley Gunther at [kgunther@mix.wvu.edu](mailto:kgunther@mix.wvu.edu).

The next meeting will be on Sunday, November 9, and will feature Nichelle Perkins and Max Farley on job application process for college graduates.

#### **CENTER FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES UPDATE**

The Fifth Annual Women's Studies Residency in Honor of Judith Gold Stitzel will be October 14th-16th. Dr. Elizabeth Miller, instructor of social medicine and pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and a primary care physician in medicine and pediatrics, will present a public lecture on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at the WVU Health Sciences Center Main Auditorium. The title of her lecture is **"Gender Based Violence: Cultural, Political, and Clinical Considerations."** A reception will follow the lecture. There will also be a reception to welcome Dr. Miller to campus on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Betty Boyd Lounge of E. Moore Hall.

For more information about women's studies events, contact Will Karigomba at [wkarigomba@geo.wvu.edu](mailto:wkarigomba@geo.wvu.edu) or 293-2339 ext. 1153.

As part of WVU's Diversity Week program, the Center for Women's Studies will sponsor a lecture by Dr. Cynthia Wesley on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in G24 Eiesland Hall. Her topic will be **"Female Genital Mutilation."** Dr. Wesley is a resident in obstetrics and gynecology at WVU.

The Center for Women's Studies, Council for Women's Concerns, and College of Creative Arts at WVU are co-sponsoring a national conference entitled "Women and Creativity 2004: Examining the Past/Composing the Future" for October 13-15, 2004. Our definition of "creativity" is wide-ranging, and the call for proposals is available at [www.as.wvu.edu/wmst/proposals.htm](http://www.as.wvu.edu/wmst/proposals.htm), Please feel free to submit your proposals and to share this with your friends and colleagues. For further information on the conference, please contact Barb Howe.

#### **IV. OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS!**

Thanks to Ann Payne for supplying some of the information about the following events!

#### **Forgiveness & Healing Workshop scheduled for October 4, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.!**

The Monongalia County Ministerial Association (MCMA), an interfaith organization in West Virginia, is presenting this day-long workshop at the WVU Eye Institute Pangilinan Family Lecture Hall. The speaker will be Dr. Sehdev Kumar, from the Centre for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto, and he will explore the impact of anger and resentment on an individual's life. Forgiveness can help us heal, and the act of forgiveness can result in less anxiety, less depression, and increased self-esteem. Dr. Kumar is an international peace mediator with highly cultivated skills in communications, committed to peace and conflict resolution,

The cost is \$25. WVU students, including graduate students, can go for free by calling the WVU President's Office for Social Justice at 293-5496 to get on their list. As a practical matter, there is a good chance there will be some spaces available on the day of the workshop if you decide at the last minute you want to attend. For information on clergy and spiritual leaders scholarships, call 304-598-4000, ext 3061.

For further information, contact Ed Horvat, MCMA Secretary, at 304-598-1952 or horvate@monhealthsys.org. Brochure available online at [www.thomasmertoncenter.org/calendar/](http://www.thomasmertoncenter.org/calendar/)

**"Peacemakers: A Special about the People Who Work to Stop Wars" - Sunday, October 12, 8-8:30 a.m. - CBS**

Whether it's tribes, clans, nations or religions fighting each other, we have people at war and people hurting; while we may be wringing our hands at home, these peacemakers show up in person at the planet's hot zones to prevent conflicts and to help heal the wounds of conflicts past. This CBS program presents just a few of the world's foremost peacemakers, their organizations and programs and their insights.

**Eugene Debs Comes to WVU on October 13!**

Rick Wilson will be returning to Morgantown on Monday, October 13, to give a "History Alive!" performance as Eugene Debs, the leading socialist in the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and a candidate for the presidency on the Socialist Party. The WVU Honors Program is sponsoring this event, which will be at 8 p.m. in G11 Life Sciences Building. This is free and open to the public, and the program is provided with funding from the West Virginia Humanities Council.

**March Against the Occupation of Iraq, Saturday, October 25, Washington, D.C.**

Vans, and perhaps buses, are leaving from the Morgantown area to ferry protesters to this huge march against the occupation of Iraq. Cost for a seat means sharing the rental price of the vehicle plus gas, usually less than \$20. Scholarships may be available. (If you can't attend, consider donating a seat.) Bring food to share and please be prepared to ride the subway into the city.

In addition, buses to the "Great Black Peace March and Mini Festival" on Saturday, October 25, 9 to 12 noon, will leave the Hill District in Pittsburgh at 3 a.m. and scholarships are available. (Black Voices For Peace)

To reserve seats, Morgantown-area residents can contact [www.internationalanswer.org](http://www.internationalanswer.org) or [wvpeacenow@yahoo.com](mailto:wvpeacenow@yahoo.com), or e-mail Lori Isner at [lisner@att.net](mailto:lisner@att.net). In the Pittsburgh area, call 412-361-3022 or e-mail [info@thomasmertoncenter.org](mailto:info@thomasmertoncenter.org).

For more information, see [unitedforpeace.org](http://unitedforpeace.org)

On Sunday, **October 26th**, at 2 p.m., there will be a one-woman show entitled "**Haunted by God**" about **Dorothy Day**, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. Catholic Worker houses exist around the country where people live simply and work for social justice. It will be sponsored by St. John's University Parish at a location to be announced.

## **V. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Again, Thanks to Ann Payne for the following notices:

### **Civil Liberty Safe Zones**

"Safe zones" are the result of a grassroots movement to reclaim civil liberties lost since 9/11. The idea originated at a November 2001 Women's Congress for Peace gathering. Although a community must submit to Patriot Act regulations, the city council can refuse to assist in enforcing the law.

Three states, Hawaii, Alaska and Vermont, have already passed such a resolution. To date, more than 115 cities and counties in 25 states have passed ‘safe zone’ resolutions including Denver, Baltimore, San Francisco and others.

More information about this program is available at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) website ([www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)) and the Bill of Rights Defense Committee (BORDC) website ([www.bordc.org](http://www.bordc.org)).

If you are interested in lobbying for a local safe zone, contact the MPAJC at [Paynestake@labs.net](mailto:Paynestake@labs.net).

***CCSJ Steering Committee 2003-2004***

Tim Hairston (Monongalia-Preston Labor Council AFL-CIO), President. Al Anderson, Vice President. Barb Howe (WVU Center for Women’s Studies), Secretary. Gregory Wagner, Treasurer. Mike Attfield. Judy Cohen. Lourdes Cottingham (Equality for All Americans). Suzanne Gosden. Kris Hash. Jacqueline Moseley. Michael Sharley. Deb Strouse ( WV Center for Dispute Resolution).