

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

Update: 6 December 2003

## **I. CCSJ PROJECTS**

**Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, January 6, 7 p.m., Conference Room, Public Safety Building. 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.**

### **Library Books Project**

We will soon be sending letters to the public elementary schools and to county Head Start and Early Start schools, asking librarians and directors of these schools to choose 3 books from our list of social justice books to enhance their school libraries. If you wish to get copies of our most recent brochure, which includes the books on children and disabilities that we purchased this year, please contact Barb Howe.

Suzanne Gosden would like to find ways to promote more interest in the books that are focused on children and disabilities. If you have ideas on how to promote these books, especially to teachers and parents and those who work with children, please contact her at [suzanne.gosden@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:suzanne.gosden@mail.wvu.edu)

### **New Steering Committee Member**

Please join us in welcoming the Rev. Shelly Barrick Parsons as the newest member of our steering committee. Shelly came to Morgantown during the summer to be the Presbyterian campus minister. Her office is in the Rogers House at 293 Willey Street, and her phone number is 292-4061.

### **Citizens for Responsible Development Public Meeting**

The Citizens for Responsible Development asked Barb Howe to represent CCSJ at its November 6<sup>th</sup> public meeting focused on Sunnyside and the Square at Falling Run projects. At the recommendation of the CCSJ steering committee, she focused on the need for housing for those with disabilities and suggested that those responsible for planning the future of Sunnyside and for the Square at Falling Run work with local groups that know these needs and use this opportunity to provide such much-needed housing.

### **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.

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 December 30. 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**

#### **Morgantown NOW**

NOW and FEM (Female Equality Movement) is organizing to attend the **march in support of reproductive rights** in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like information about going with the Morgantown group, please contact choicemarch@hotmail.com. Bus transportation will be \$40/person, and buses will leave the WVU Coliseum at 5:30 a.m.

#### **WVU Center for Black Culture and Research (CBCR)**

Plans are underway for the Nineteenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemoration Program, which will take place on Thursday, January 15, 2004, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 247 Willey Street, at 7 p.m. The speaker will be the Rev. Gardner Calvin Taylor. The CBCR web site gives the following biographical sketch of Reverend Taylor:

“Born June 18, 1918 as the only child of an educated mother and a Baptist preacher father in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Gardner Calvin Taylor began the path that would eventually lead to becoming the influential senior pastor of the Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, New York. His peers named him the greatest African American preacher and one of America's greatest preachers in Ebony magazine in 1993. Former President Clinton agreed in 2000 when he bestowed Taylor with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

“Despite his background, Taylor was agnostic until his involvement in a 1937 car accident in which a white man died. Consequently, he enrolled in the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology in 1937, where he met and married Laura Bell Scott. They have one daughter, Martha. While still in school, he preached at Bethany Baptist Church in Oberlin, Ohio from 1938 to 1941.

“Taylor actively advocated civil rights as pastor for four churches. He sought the presidency of the National Baptist Church Convention in 1961 and after losing, he and his followers formed the Progressive

National Baptist Convention. Taylor taught at prominent divinity schools, including Harvard and Yale. Now Senior Pastor Emeritus of Concord, he has traveled extensively around the world and uses all his experiences in his preaching.”

The annual Unity Breakfast will be Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, at 8 a.m. in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms. Dr. Eddie Reed, director of the WVU Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center, will speak. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Achievement Award and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Scholarship will be presented at this time. The breakfast is provided by the WVU President’s Office. The breakfast is free and open to the public. Invitations are not necessary. Please RSVP by calling 293-7029, ext. 110, by January 12<sup>th</sup>. The Inclement weather date will be January 20th.

### **WVU Center for Women’s Studies**

The Center for Women’s Studies will be graduating its first major this semester! Jamie Baxter will receive a B.A. degree with majors in women’s studies and political science.

The last date to submit proposals for the Women and Creativity conference is December 15<sup>th</sup>. Women and Creativity 2004: Examining the Past/Composing the Future will take place October 13-15, 2004, and is sponsored by the Center for Women’s Studies, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, College of Creative Arts, and Council for Women’s Concerns, with much assistance from Arts Monongahela, Inc. The call for proposals is available at <http://www.as.wvu.edu/wmst/proposals.htm>

The center’s next Fireside Chat will be on January 28<sup>th</sup>, with the place and time to be announced. Carroll Wilkinson, head of the Access Services Department for the WVU Downtown Campus Library, will present “Curiosity and Cognitive Maps: Fresh Insights into Information Literacy and Women’s Studies.” Carroll is the 2003 Stitzel Endowment Teacher, and this presentation reflects her work for the endowment.

## **IV. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LaDonna Harris to visit WVU February 24-26**

LaDonna Harris, a Commanche social activist, will be visiting WVU February 24-26 as the Native American Studies Program’s resident. She will give a public lecture on Wednesday evening, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Further details will be provided as they are available. According to the National Women’s History Project, “Since 1970, she has served as the president of Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO), a national multi-tribal organization devoted to developing the economic opportunities and resources of American Indians throughout the United States.”

### **Mom’s Turn to Learn Day date set for March 29th**

The WVU Council for Women’s Concerns will be sponsoring the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mom’s Turn to Learn Day on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Morgantown Mall. This is an opportunity for women to women to learn about opportunities at WVU to continue their education. Watch for further publicity as plans develop and please encourage your co-workers, neighbors, and friends to attend. Marshall University will have similar activities that day, and we hope, so will those at other state colleges.

### **MARV (Men Against Rape and Violence) organizing at WVU**

MARV (Men Against Rape and Violence) is a new group at WVU. The goal is to organize men on campus to speak up against violence against women, and the group recently sponsored a white ribbon campaign, tying 1500 white ribbons around Woodburn Circle to symbolize the 1500 women who die as a result of domestic violence each year. Deb Strouse, a CCSJ steering committee member, is working with this group. If you are interested in more information about this group, contact Mark Miller, the president, at yoyofreeq@hotmail.com.

### **Vagina Monologues dates set**

WVU's FEM will be sponsoring its third annual production of "Vagina Monologues" this year on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. FEM has announced that, this year, there will be a small portion of each show dedicated to a vagina warrior. A vagina warrior is a female in the community who has overcome a sexual assault or domestic violence and survived to better herself or her community. Information will follow on how to submit a name for the vagina warrior.

### **Out Youth for Dean in West Virginia**

Jeremy Slaughter is organizing a group called Out Youth for Dean in West Virginia. Basically, it is a group of GLBT supporters for Howard Dean, and the West Virginia chapter is part of a national organization. The goal is raise visibility for Governor Dean within the GLBT community. Mr. Slaughter would like to host Voter Registration and information tables at various GLBT bars across the state, as an example. If you would like to sign up, you can either contact him at YoungDemocrats@aol.com or by phone at 304-216-0896. People can sign up directly at [www.OutYouthforDean.com](http://www.OutYouthforDean.com).

### ***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. Shelly Barrick Parsons (Presbyterian campus ministry). Michael Sharley. Deb Strouse ( WV Center for Dispute Resolution).