

Community Coalition for Social Justice  
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Update: 7 January 2004

## I. CCSJ PROJECTS

**Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, March 2, 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.**

### **Economic Justice Committee Meeting Scheduled**

David Cormier and Tim Hairston want to revitalize this committee and have scheduled a meeting for **Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in 713 Knapp Hall** on the WVU downtown campus. The agenda will include a discussion of setting up a community-based economic development project, beginning with skill training and aimed at alternative economic development possibilities for Monongalia County. There are similar projects underway in the Northern Panhandle and southern West Virginia; the latter project includes efforts to turn the gob piles left over from mining into blocks to be used in construction projects. For further information, please contact David at [DRCormier@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:DRCormier@mail.wvu.edu).

### **CCSJ to Co-sponsor Rally with ADAPT on January 19<sup>th</sup>**

ADAPT WV, an advocacy group for people with disabilities, has invited CCSJ to co-sponsor a rally on Monday evening, January 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm. to address the need for services for individuals with disabilities. The event will begin with a short walk, beginning at the city parking lot at the corner of High and Willey streets (across from Wesley United Methodist Church) and proceed to the meeting space, which will be announced very soon. There will be speakers and videos to help us understand the issues involved. This is open to everyone, so please help us publicize this! ADAPT WV and CCSJ have chosen to hold this event on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day because we feel this is a civil rights issue.

The rally would promote viable community-based alternatives for facility placement for people with disabilities. This is an important issue for the state because, according to *The Status of Women in West Virginia* report (2002), 20.4 percent of women between the ages of 21 and 64 had a disability in 2001, compared to 13.9 percent nationally. At this time, there are about 900 people with disabilities on a waiting list to get home-based services. When they cannot get these services, they may have to go to nursing homes, regardless of the level of services needed or their age. But, with adequate support, they may be able to stay in their own homes.

While this is linked to the need for accessible housing, Mike Sharley, a CCSJ steering committee member, and Ken Ervin of ADAPT WV remind us that buildings can be made accessible with a one-time expenditure of funds for ramps, etc. However, people who live in these buildings may need round-the-clock services from caregivers.

ADAPT WV has talked to Secretary Nussbaum of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services and with state legislators to try to get more state funding designated for home-based services. Under the Medicare Community Assistance and Services Support Act (MECASSA), states have flexibility on how to provide services, and West Virginia has designated more resources to nursing homes than have some other states. We invite everyone to attend and show your support as ADAPT WV launches its West Virginia campaign to adopt appropriate MECASSA legislation here.

For further information about ADAPT WV or MECASSA legislation, please contact Ken Ervin at adapatwv@hotmail.com or Mike Sharley at MJSharleyLaw@aol.com.

### **Spring Networking Meeting**

We are planning to sponsor another meeting in April to promote networking among local groups who share our interests so that we can identify common goals and potential strategies to address our concerns. We'll be announcing more details soon, but, until then, feel free to share your ideas with Tim Hairston at questz1@adelphia.net.

### **Library Books Project**

We have sent 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

### **II. PLEASE SEND/RESEND 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.

**Also, if you sent your dues recently and had your check returned from the post office, please send it again. Our post office box was accidentally closed for awhile, but it is now open again and ready to accept your check!** We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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 January 31. 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**

#### **WVU-ACE/WVEA**

WVU-ACE/WVEA is sponsoring a trip to the state legislature on January 13<sup>th</sup> to help advance its legislative agenda. For more information about these issues, contact WVU-ACE/WVEA at 1137 Van Voorhis Rd., Suite 6, Morgantown, 26505 or call 598-3900. ACE/WVEA stands for Association of Concerned Employees/West Virginia Education Association.

#### **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 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **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](mailto:choicemarch@hotmail.com). Bus transportation will be \$40/person, and buses will leave the WVU Coliseum at 5:30 a.m.

### **WVU Center for Women's Studies Fireside Chat - January 28**

The center's next Fireside Chat will be on January 28<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 104 of the WVU Downtown Campus Library. 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. This is free and open to the public.

## **IV. UPCOMING EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

### **Coalition for West Virginia Women Meeting - January 18**

The Coalition for West Virginia Women welcomes all interested in its goals to the next meeting on Sunday, January 18, from 2-4 p.m. in Training Room B of the Gaston Caperton Training Center at the State Capitol Complex in Charleston. The agenda will emphasize three projects the coalition is working on: women voters registration, Mom's Turn to Learn Day on a state-wide level, and Pay Equity Day.

Voter registration (and then voting) are important because, while 63.2 percent of West Virginia women and 62.9 percent of West Virginia men were registered to vote in 2000, only 52 percent of women and 52.2 percent of men voted in the general election. Pay equity focuses on the idea that we need to value jobs that are typically male jobs and jobs that are typically female jobs the same in terms of pay if the levels of responsibility, experience, and complexity are comparable. There should also be information about state legislative issues. To get on the mailing list for the coalition, please contact Juliana Serafin at [serafijg@dow.com](mailto:serafijg@dow.com).

### **Women's Day at the Legislature - February 17**

The West Virginia Women's Commission sponsors this annual event. For more information on this annual event, go to [www.wvdhhr.org/women/legislature.asp](http://www.wvdhhr.org/women/legislature.asp) or call the commission at 558-0070.

### **Public Policy Forum on Children's Issues - February 17 - and Children's Day at the Legislature - February 18**

Sid Johnson, president and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America, will be the keynote speaker for this

February 17th forum at the Charleston House Holiday Inn, which is co-sponsored by the Coalition for West Virginia's Children and Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia. There will also be workshops on a variety of public policy issues. The forum organizers are applying for CEUs for social workers, nurses, and lawyers.

The agenda for Children's Day at the Legislature includes an overview of "hot topics at the Legislature, a legislative panel discussion, performances by youth, exhibits, and visits with legislators."

For more information, about the schedule and registration procedures for both events, contact [www.preventchildabusewv.org/childrens\\_day/index.html](http://www.preventchildabusewv.org/childrens_day/index.html).

Financial support for these events is provided by the Black Diamond Girl Scout Council, Benedum Foundation, Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia, Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Sisters of Saint Joseph Charitable Trust, West Virginia Children's Justice Task Force, West Virginia Community Voices (a project of W.K. Kellogg Foundation), West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, and West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council.

### **Vagina Monologues - February 20-22**

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.

### **Morgantown High School African American Awareness Night - February 21 - 7 p.m.**

The Morgantown High School African American Awareness Club is sponsoring a family entertainment night for everyone to come together to celebrate black artistry. The title of the event is "Presentation of Black Arts," and this will be a fundraising event for the club, with donations accepted at the door in lieu of admission charges. According to Terrill Mitchell, club representative, the club wants "to give a show where different groups, clubs, organizations, etc. come together and present different showcases displaying the black culture and its views. (For example: Dancing, Singing, Poetry Reading, etc.)."

The club's goal "is to display and maintain a positive image in our schools and our community," and the club is open to everyone.

For further information, please contact Anna Fleming, the club sponsor, at [amfleming@adelphia.net](mailto:amfleming@adelphia.net).

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

LaDonna Harris, a Comanche 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 - March 29**

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 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. The West Virginia branch of the American Association of University Women is supporting this event this year.

### ***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).