

Community Coalition for Social Justice
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Morgantown, West Virginia 26507-0160
ccsjwv@hotmail.com
www.geocities.com/ccsjwv/index.html

Please send us an email address if you have one so that we may save postage. Thanks!

Update: 7 June 2004

I. CCSJ PROJECTS

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, July 6, 7 p.m. Morgantown Public Safety Building Conference Room. Please contact Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu if you have issues for the steering committee to consider.

Grant Received!!!

We recently learned that we have received \$4500 from the Appalachian Community Fund to buy social justice books for children to use at the Clay-Battelle and Clinton District public libraries in the county. We budgeted \$2000 to spend at each of these libraries, \$400 for additional books for public schools, and \$100 to print updated versions of our brochure.

We will be working with the staff of the Morgantown Public Library, which provides the support for these branch libraries, to implement this grant.

This will also give us the funds to produce more brochures to publicize these books, especially in these communities. This is CCSJ=s first significant grant funding, other than the much-appreciated support from the Morgantown City Council.

The ACF reviewed 73 applications for funding, with requests totaling over \$500,000. There were 41 grants awarded for a total of \$241,000.

Meanwhile, if you have suggestions for books on economic justice that we can purchase for the Morgantown Public Library (for adults or children), please send them to Tim Hairston at questz1@adelphia.net. We want to get these books purchased this summer so they are available for our annual meeting.

Nominating Committee

We will be forming a nominating committee at our July steering committee meeting to identify new members of the committee and candidates for officers, so, if you are interested in being more involved in CCSJ, please contact Tim Hairston at questz1@adelphia.net.

Annual Meeting Plans

We are hoping to have a social justice fair for our annual meeting in September, highlighting the work of a wide variety of social justice groups around the community. We are modeling this on the open house that was part of the Mon-Earth Benefit Concert and on fairs that the West Virginia Economic Justice Coalition held. If you want to be part of this event, please contact Kris Hash at KMHash@mail.wvu.edu or Shelly Barrick Parsons at shellybparsons@msn.com.

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. We use your money to purchase books for local schools, for instance. **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 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

WVU-ACE

WVU-ACE will have a picnic on Thursday, June 10th, from 3-7 p.m. at Krepps Park. Please bring a covered dish. Drinks, hot dogs, and hamburgers will be furnished. For more information, contact WVU-ACE at 598-3900.

WVU Center for Women=s Studies Upcoming Events

October 13-15 - Women and Creativity 2004: Examining the Past/Composing the Future - The third decennial women and creativity conference combined with Sixth Women=s Studies Residency in Honor of Judith Gold Stitzel will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Morgantown and the WVU Creative Arts Center. The keynote speaker will be composer Libby Larsen on Wednesday, October 13, and there will be WVU Symphony Orchestra concert on October 14, featuring the work of women composers, including Larsen. For more information, please see www.as.wvu.edu/wmst/wvuwomenandcreativity.htm. The full program will be posted there soon, along with registration information.

Co-sponsors are the Center for Women=s Studies, College of Creative Arts, and WVU Council for Women=s Concerns, with assistance from Arts Monongahela, Inc., the Convention and Visitors Bureau, WVU Department of English, and Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. The West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is also providing financial assistance.

IV. NEWS FROM STATE ORGANIZATIONS

Rainbow Community Center Gets ACF Grant, Too!

Congratulations to the Rainbow Community Center, Inc., which received a grant of \$3291 from the Appalachian Community Fund. This makes the RCC A3 for 3 and 100% in its grant proposals, according to Spence Carver Leonard. He=s right that AThat is incredible success.@ The RCC is working on its next proposal, which, if approved, would provide funding to hire staff and open a public office/center. For further information on the RCC, please contact Spence C. Carver Leonard, BA, WV TLSW-E; Founder & Executive Director, Rainbow Community Center, Inc., Serving North Central WV; WV Organizer, BiNet USA; WV editor, International Bisexual Resource Guide, The Bisexual Resource Center, at PO BOX 1933, Clarksburg, WV 26302; (304) 623-7092 (Voice/Fax) or rccwv@msn.com/www.geocities.com/rainbowsww

Celebrate Flag Day in Lewisburg - Panel Discussion on the Bill of Rights with Harry Belafonte

Thanks to Joan Browning for the following information about a special event in Lewisburg on the 14th.

Join the Southeastern Chapter of the ACLU-WV on Flag Day, for a celebration at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg from 7-9 p.m., with a reception to follow. The program will honor the principles of democracy and liberty that our flag represents.

Keynote speaker Harry Belafonte, and a panel of community members moderated by Joan C. Browning will discuss the Constitution and Bill of Rights and their importance in post 9/11 America.

The celebration will share views about the impact of the Bill of Rights on religious freedoms, the press, politics, law, justice and social equality.

Location:

Carnegie Hall
105 Church Street
Lewisburg, WV 24901
(304) 645-7917
(304) 645-2558 fax

The Flag Day Celebration is FREE, but tickets are Required. Tickets may be reserved by calling Carnegie Hall at (304) 645-7917 (reservation limit 4 per caller).

2004 Flag Day Celebration Participants and Panelists

Keynote Speaker Harry Belafonte

Harry Belafonte is known worldwide for his long and distinguished commitment to promoting human rights throughout the world and has been recognized and awarded countless times for his humanitarian work. In the early 1960s, he became the entertainment industry's first cultural adviser to the Peace Corps. He has been a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador since 1987. In 1985, he was instrumental in raising \$70 million for emergency aid to Africa, by helping bring together notable performers to record 'We Are the World'. In 2000, Harry Belafonte received the Ronald McDonald House Charities' Award of Excellence. In 2003, he accepted the Distinguished American Award from the John F. Kennedy Library and Foundation.

Moderator Joan C. Browning

Humanities scholar and writer Joan C. Browning is a tireless activist and speaker for racial equality and social justice. She was a member of the SNCC from 1961 to 1966, and was jailed for her activities as a Freedom Rider during the Civil Rights Movement. Her story is featured in the book *Deep in Our Hearts: Nine White Women in the Freedom Movement*. Before the program and afterwards, during the reception, the Open Book store in Lewisburg will be selling both paperback and hardback editions of this book. She has received numerous awards, including the West Virginia's Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream Award in 2002.

In a Civil Rights interview request, posted on www.crmvets.org, when asked "What would you tell others who seek to change unfair laws and attitudes?", Joan Browning replied:

- a. Remember: We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes.
- b. Refuse to cooperate with evil.
- c. Speak only for yourself. Allow no one to speak for you without your consent.
- d. Listen to people speak in their own voice.
- e. Recognize how you contribute to oppression.
- f. Know that only the injured can forgive.

Frank Spicer, Publisher, *West Virginia Daily News*

Mr. Spicer's media career began when he was a student at City University of New York on a visit to the CBS-TV studios. Part of his military service in Japan was as an announcer for the military's Far East Network and as a columnist for the base newspaper. He worked at radio stations in New York and Ohio.

His Greenbrier Valley media career began as WRON radio's Program Director, moving up to WRON's Station Manager. In his thirty year career with *West Virginia Daily News*, the staff have won awards for excellence in reporting in competition with much larger newspapers.

The Hon. Mary Pearl Compton, former West Virginia State Delegate

In West Virginia, Mary Pearl Compton has been a consistent leader on environmental and social justice issues. She served as a West Virginia State Delegate for over 14 years, part of that time as chair of the Health and Human Resources Committee. In 2002, she was awarded the Defense of Our Democracy award by the West Virginia Citizen's Action Group, and was called the "conscience of the House of Delegates."

Rev. Nelson Staples III, NAACP

Rev. Nelson E. Staples, III, is the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in White Sulphur Springs. He holds an MA in Religion from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, Liberty University and is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry program there.

While ministering to the community at large, Rev. Staples has served on the State Board of Directors for the Black Diamond Girl Scout Council, the State Board of Directors for PBS, the Boards of Directors for Beckley-Raleigh County YMCA, the West Virginia Fellowship Home, and the Raleigh County Women's Resource Center.

Rev. Dexter Taylor, Old Stone Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Dr. Dexter Taylor has served as pastor to Lewisburg's Old Stone Presbyterian Church for the past eighteen years.

E. Lavoyd Morgan, Jr., attorney

"J.R." Morgan is a criminal defense attorney with additional experience in domestic relations, personal injury, civil litigation and pro bono work. Mr. Morgan is a graduate of Concord College and Campbell University School of Law.

More information is available at liberty.alterra-wv.com/flag-day-2004.htm

West Virginia Professional Women's Forum Sponsors A Survival Skills for the Working Woman@ Conference

The Ninth Annual West Virginia Professional Women's Forum will be held on July 8 at the Charleston Marriott, beginning at 8 a.m.. Mary LoVerde, president of Life Balance Inc., will be the keynote speaker. The goal of the conference is to help participants 1) to identify a new definition of life balance; 2) to recognize what gets them out of balance the most; and 3) to utilize specific >real life= ways to connect with themselves and what they are passionate about at work and at home.@ Registration is \$140 for those who are not members of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce and \$99 for chamber members and is due by July 2nd. For further information, contact the Charleston Chamber of Commerce at www.charlestonwvchamber.org.

V. A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

The University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning has created the APrejudice Project,@ which the Cincinnati Enquirer described as A8-foot tall, free-standing kiosks that allow visitors to explore and react to themes related to prejudice. Rather than sweeping topics, such as civil rights or the Holocaust, the exhibit focuses on the settings and actions of everyday life. Viewers will be challenged to consider how they react to a bigoted joke, how it feels to be the only woman in a conversational group, how one person's silence allows discriminatory behavior to occur.@ The designers use images, text and Ateaching tools, including >action cards= that offer three simple suggestions for combating prejudice.@ This is a result of the Facing Prejudice project sponsored by the Center for Holocaust and Humanities Education at Cincinnati's Hebrew Union College. The exhibit opens June 21st at the University of Cincinnati and then will tour through area colleges throughout the summer.

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).