

**Community Coalition for Social Justice  
P.O. Box 160  
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: 11 August 2004**

## **I. CCSJ PROJECTS**

**Next Steering Committee Meeting: Monday, August 30, 7 p.m. Public Safety Building Conference Room. 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 & Organization Fair Set for Tuesday, September 21 (International Peace Day)**

As part of its annual meeting, the Community Coalition for Social Justice is sponsoring an economic and social justice organizations' fair on September 21, 2004 at First Presbyterian Church. We already know that Equality for All Americans, the WVU Center for Women's Studies, and WVU's BiGLM will be participating - please add your group to the list!

The vision for this event is:

- To gather organizations working to promote social and economic justice in the areas in and around Morgantown
- To give space for informal networking among organizations with similar aims
- To raise awareness about the groups working towards social and economic justice in the area through organizational displays
- To provide an opportunity for the community at-large to come to the fair to learn about and to connect with the organizations working for justice in the community

### **TO REGISTER YOUR GROUP:**

Please send your registration by Tuesday, September 7, 2004 to:  
[ccsjwv@hotmail.com](mailto:ccsjwv@hotmail.com), or CCSJ Annual Meeting-Fair Registration, PO Box 160, Morgantown WV 26507, or call Shelly Barrick Parsons, 292-4061

### **REGISTRATIONS MUST INCLUDE:**

- 1 NAME OF ORGANIZATION
- 2 NAME OF CONTACT PERSON(S)
- 3 EMAIL, PHONE, ADDRESS OF CONTACT PERSON
- 4 EMAIL, PHONE, WEB, ETC OF ORGANIZATION
- 5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR GROUP (SUMMARY OF MISSION AND GOALS, NO MORE THAN 1 PARAGRAPH) (WILL BE USED FOR PUBLICITY)

The fair is open both to CCSJ member organizations and to nonmember organizations. This is a great (and free!) way to publicize your group to the community, and to find out about resources in other groups. The gym at First Presbyterian Church will be accessible starting at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, June 21 to set up organization's displays. For more information on the Community Coalition for Social Justice and its members, log-on: [www.geocities.com/ccsjwv/](http://www.geocities.com/ccsjwv/)

### **Economic Justice Book Ideas Needed**

We have turned over our lists of suggested books to the public library to purchase with our funds from the City of Morgantown and the Appalachian Community Fund. We hope to have these available for display on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Our list of suggested economic justice books did not total \$1000, the amount we have available from the City of Morgantown, so please send your ideas for additional purchases to Judy Cohen at [mcohen@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:mcohen@access.k12.wv.us).

### **Steering Committee Members Needed!**

If you are interested in being more involved in CCSJ, please contact Tim Hairston at [questz1@adelphia.net](mailto:questz1@adelphia.net).

## **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](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 August 30. 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**

### **WVU-ACE**

WVU-ACE is planning an open house for September 29<sup>th</sup> and is working with the West Virginia Education Association on plans for a Higher Education Conference at the Ramada Inn in Morgantown on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. For more information, contact the WVU-ACE office at 598-3900.

### **Equality for All Americans**

The new email address for Equality for All Americans is [equalityfaa@yahoo.com](mailto:equalityfaa@yahoo.com).

### **WVU Center for Black Culture and Research Upcoming Events**

The Horace and Geraldine Belmeur New Student Barbeque will be held on September 2, 2004, from 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Center for Black Culture and Research at 590 Spruce Street.

### **WVU Center for Women's Studies Upcoming Events**

**September 28<sup>th</sup>** -evening, place to be announced - Women's Studies Fireside Chat: "A Different Kind of Family: Social support in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Community." Presented by Mindi Spencer, a 4th-year doctoral student in the Life-span Developmental Psychology program at WVU, and Dr. Julie Hicks Patrick,

associate professor in the Life-span Developmental Psychology program at WVU. This presentation is free and open to the public.

According to Spencer, social support issues have not been examined extensively among older lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) adults, despite mounting evidence that these individuals do not have the same experience with aging as same-aged heterosexuals. Examining the social networks of LGBT adults is essential because in this group, social support may directly influence positive self-identity and successful aging (Friend, 1991). This presentation will describe an ongoing research project at WVU examining the influence of gender and sexual orientation on the social support networks of middle-aged and older adults. We will argue the case for a distinct LGBT culture, discuss some of the unique issues surrounding aging as a member of a "sexual minority," and present our ideas for overcoming the challenges associated with conducting research in the LGBT community.

**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 and registration information, please see [www.as.wvu.edu/wmst/wvuwomenandcreativity.htm](http://www.as.wvu.edu/wmst/wvuwomenandcreativity.htm). The full program will be posted there soon.

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. This project is being presented with financial assistance from The West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this conference do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

#### **IV. LOCAL AND STATE NEWS**

##### **Get Out Her Vote Campaign Comes to Morgantown**

The Feminist Majority Foundation is sponsoring a Non-Partisan Get Out Her Vote Campaign for the state of West Virginia. The leaders of this campaign, Rachel Terman and Elizabeth Harless, are seeking volunteers to assist in registering women voters. The Get Out Her Vote campaign is reaching out to women on college campuses throughout the state. West Virginia is considered a swing state in the upcoming presidential election. According to Harless, "It is crucial that we get a large voter turnout for West Virginia. The last presidential election was decided by 537 votes. Every vote counts! Let our voices be heard in West Virginia and around the country!" If anyone is interested in participating with the Get out Her Vote Campaign please e-mail [getouthervote@hotmail.com](mailto:getouthervote@hotmail.com) for further information.

*As a reminder, the last day to register to vote in West Virginia is October 13<sup>th</sup>. Registration information is available on line at [www.wvsos.com/elections/voters/voterbasics.htm](http://www.wvsos.com/elections/voters/voterbasics.htm).*

##### **Charleston Labor Day Rally sponsored by "Reinvest in America: Put America Back to Work!" campaign**

The Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, led by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, will host the Labor Day rally, featuring Judy Collins, Nanci Griffith, Willie Nelson, Asleep at the Wheel, Indigo Girls and the Carpenter Ants. According to Paul Nyden, in an August 3rd story in the *Charleston Gazette*, "The festivities will begin at 11 a.m. Sept. 6 at Haddad Riverfront Park and will conclude with fireworks over the Kanawha River.

"George Korn, an Ohio University communications professor, is helping to organize the event, where Jackson will also speak. 'We have two goals. One is to have a great time and to celebrate labor. The other is to continue to call attention to the issues this [election] campaign is about: jobs, health care and education.'"

“Korn said his organization works to gain the attention of political leaders of all parties and political views. “But it is not about a political campaign. It is about change. Wal-Mart jobs, McDonald’s jobs are not jobs to help parents send their kids to college,” Korn said.

“U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data reveal that during the current Bush administration, 334,000 manufacturing jobs have disappeared from West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania, including jobs in the coal, steel, aluminum and chemical industries.

“Mike Matthews, president of the Kanawha Valley Labor Council, stressed that all members of the public are welcome to attend any of the festivities planned for Labor Day. There is no admission charge.

“Korn confirmed that Michael Moore, who directed “Fahrenheit 9/11,” has been invited to come, but has not yet responded.

“All performers have agreed to donate their services on Labor Day. Rally organizers will pay only for their traveling and hotel expenses.

“Unions supporting the event include: the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the United Steelworkers of America and the United Mine Workers.”

### **PATRIOT-ACT Free Zone in Morgantown**

Leah Rye reports that the Morgantown ACLU group, which is leading the effort to make Morgantown a “PATRIOT Act-Free Zone,” has a petition available for Morgantown residents to sign. The goal is to turn completed forms in to city council in September sometime, so signers should be residents of the City of Morgantown. For further information or to get electronic copies of the petition, contact Leah at [squamishforever@yahoo.com](mailto:squamishforever@yahoo.com).

The text of the petition is as follows:

Petition To Morgantown Officials

Whereas, the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution and the Constitution of West Virginia guarantee those living in the United States the following rights:

Freedom of speech, assembly and privacy; The rights to counsel and due process in judicial proceedings; and Protection from unreasonable searches and seizures; and

**Whereas**, we believe these civil liberties are precious and are now threatened by The **USA PATRIOT Act**, which All but eliminates judicial supervision of telephone and Internet surveillance; Greatly expands the government's ability to conduct secret searches; Gives the Attorney General and the Secretary of State the power to designate domestic groups as "terrorist organizations"; and Grants the FBI broad access to sensitive medical, mental health, financial and educational records about individuals without having to show evidence of a crime and without a court order; and

**Federal Executive Orders**, which

Establish secret military tribunals for terrorism suspects; Permit wiretapping of conversations between federal prisoners and their lawyers; Lift Justice Department regulations against illegal COINTELPRO-type operations by the FBI (covert activities that in the past targeted domestic groups and individuals); and Limit the disclosure of public documents and records under the Freedom of Information Act; and

**Whereas**, this law and these Executive Orders particularly target foreign nationals and people of Middle Eastern and South Asian descent, but could affect any one of us in the U.S.A. acting and speaking legally in opposing government policy; and

**Whereas**, the Executive Order on secret military tribunals also undermines the U.S. government's ability to denounce atrocities carried out in secret by military tribunals elsewhere in the world; and

**Whereas**, several law enforcement officials, including previous heads of the FBI, have decried the USA PATRIOT Act and these Executive Orders as unnecessary to the prosecution of, and protection from, terrorism;

**Therefore**, we the people of Morgantown, West Virginia, call on our local government to act in the spirit of our state and federal Constitutions by asking local and state police, the local U.S. Attorney's office, and the FBI to: Report to citizens regularly and publicly the extent to and manner in which they have acted under the USA PATRIOT Act, new Executive Orders, or COINTELPRO-type regulations, including disclosing the names of any detainees; End racial profiling in law enforcement and detentions without charges; Not participate, to the extent legally permissible, in law enforcement activities that threaten civil rights and civil liberties of the people of Morgantown, such as surveillance, wiretaps, and securing of private information, which the Act and Orders authorize; and Openly work for the repeal of the parts of the Act and Orders that violate civil rights and civil liberties.

As a citizen of Morgantown, I respect the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution. The USA PATRIOT Act endangers these fundamental rights. Among the rights threatened are freedom of association, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom from unreasonable searches, the right to a trial by jury, and the promise that no person will be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.

The 342 page USA PATRIOT Act was passed with great haste amid an atmosphere of national fear. In a period of grief and mourning, our lawmakers over-reached in trying to respond to this crisis and inadvertently took away the checks and balances that preserve our Constitutional freedoms. We need to correct these mistakes. I support fighting terrorism, but let us not endanger the very way of life we are protecting in the process. With that in mind, I urge Morgantown City Council to pass an ordinance which adheres to the principles of this petition.

### **WVU Planning Events to Commemorate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education**

Look for a series of events during the next academic year that will mark this historic anniversary. On Monday evening, October 18<sup>th</sup>, for instance, as part of WVU's Diversity Week, Dr. Ancella Bickley and Dr. Rita Wicks-Nelson will give a presentation on "Desegregation of Schools as a Result of Brown v. Board of Education." There are plans for a web site to announce all these events.

Tony Brown will be the featured speaker on November 10, 2004 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms.

#### ***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. 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).