

**Community Coalition for Social Justice
P.O. Box 160
Morgantown, West Virginia 26507-0160
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www.geocities.com/ccsjwv/index.html**

Update: 8 November 2004

I. CCSJ PROJECTS

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Monday, January 10, 2005, 7 p.m. Place to be announced. Please contact Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu if you have issues for the steering committee to consider.

Diversity Week Photo Contest Winners Announced

Congratulations to the award winners for the Diversity Week Photo Contest and thanks to Neal Newfield and Kris Hash for organizing this and to the WVU Division of Social Work (which provided the award for the 2nd place finisher), Perley Isaac Reed (WVU) School of Journalism, WVU College of Creative Arts for co-sponsoring this with CCSJ. And, a special thanks goes to Mr. Ritz of Ritz Camera at the Morgantown Mall, who donated an Olympus Superzoom 120 35mm camera as the 1st-place prize.

First Place: Dick Hepler

Second Place: Angie Dial, Caption: Two people playing capoeira martial arts.

Third Place: Rick Stackpole; Caption: Palestinian refugee school girls waving to bus of American tourists.

Honorable Mention: Rick Stackpole; Caption: Muslim boys at play in Muslim quarter of Jerusalem

Honorable Mention: Amberlee Vanover; Caption: Garden of Krishna's, New Vrindaban Community, Moundsville, West Virginia

Economic Justice Book Ideas Still Needed

We still have some funds to spend on economic justice books for the Morgantown Public Library, so please send your ideas for additional purchases to Judy Cohen at mcohen@access.k12.wv.us.

New Steering Committee Members, Officers!

Please join us in welcoming Liliana Hernandez as the newest member of the steering committee. We still have room for more members on the steering committee, so, if you are interested in being more involved in CCSJ, please contact Tim Hairston at 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.

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 November 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 CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH

The annual Kwanzaa celebration will be on December 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the WVU Mountainlair Rhododendron Room.

MORGANTOWN NOW

The next meeting of the Morgantown NOW chapter will be Thursday, November 11th, at 6 pm., probably at the WVU Law School. For more information, contact Jessi Kalvitis at hagdinvincible@yahoo.com.

IV. LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL NEWS

UPCOMING DATES:

December 1: World AIDS DAY

December 10: International Human Rights Day

Global Climate Change Meeting Set

The Global Climate Change group's next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. We welcome people of all faiths. The state Steering Committee is working on an energy charter, somewhat akin to the "Earth Charter." For further information, please contact Mary Rehmman at rehmannlaw@labyrinth.net.

Women's Health Policy Conference In Morgantown December 6-8

The state's Women's Health Policy Conference will be held in Morgantown for the first time this year. The conference opens with a reception on Monday evening, December 6th, and continues with sessions at the Radisson Hotel at Waterfront Place on the 7th and 8th. Sessions on the 7th will focus on topics like hormone replacement therapy, reproductive health, obesity, and emerging health care trends. The program on the morning of the 8th will focus on developing policy ideas for the state legislature. All are welcome to attend, and CEUs are available for nurses, physicians, social workers, and psychologists. The Full Conference Registration fee is \$140 (includes entry into reception, continuing education session and exhibit areas, nutritional breaks, lunch, registration materials, and

certificate); the Full Conference “No-Frills” Registration is \$100 (includes entry into reception, continuing education sessions and exhibit area and registration materials- does NOT include meals and certificate). Students (with a valid ID) may attend for free (includes entry into reception, continuing education sessions and exhibit area and registration materials- does NOT include meals and certificate). Those wishing to attend only the opening reception may pay \$10. Some scholarships are available. Please call 304-346-0300 for details (Submissions will be considered after 11/18) For more information, contact Brandy Pitzer at Brandy@chandcompany.com

15th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Achievement Award Nominations Due

From the Center for Black Culture and Research web page: On Monday, January 17, 2005 (8:00am-10:00am in the Mountainlair Ballrooms) the prestigious Martin Luther King Achievement Award will be presented to the nominee from the state of West Virginia who best exemplifies one who is working to fulfill the commitment of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The awardee must be a resident of West Virginia and must have, or be making a substantial contribution in the advancement of such concerns as: civil rights, human rights, humanitarianism, social action and advocacy, civility, improving the human condition, acting as a change agent for an inclusive and equal society for all people, etc. Each year the Martin Luther King Achievement Award Committee makes their selection based on the applications we receive at the WVU Center for Black Culture and Research. To nominate someone or to be nominated, please complete the nomination form and return it to the CBC&R Please duplicate and share this information with anyone interested. If you have any questions, please contact the Center for Black Culture and Research at (304) 293-7029 or go to the CBC&R web site at www.wvu.edu/~cbr.

Nominations must be submitted by December 13, 2004 to WVU Center for Black Culture and Research, 590 Spruce Street, P.O. Box 6417, Morgantown, West Virginia 26506.

To be eligible, candidates must:

- Reside in the state of West Virginia
- Have an established record of community involvement
- Have a demonstrated record of working to fulfill the dreams and ideas of Martin Luther King Jr.

For more information on the award or to obtain a copy of the nomination form, contact the WVU Center for Black Culture and Research at 304-293-7029 or email Todd McFadden at todd.mcfadden@mail.wvu.edu.

WVU BiGLM

Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Mountaineers meets every Thursday from 8:00-10:00 p.m. in the Laurel Room of the WVU Mountainlair to provide support for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgendered students, faculty, and staff at WVU; provide a safe place for GLBT people to meet and discuss the issues that affect their lives; educate the campus and community concerning bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgendered issues; and monitor and promote social justice on campus and in the surrounding community. Allies and PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) are welcome. Membership does not indicate sexual orientation or sexual practices. For more information, go to www.wvu.edu/~biglm, phone 293-8200, or email wvu_biglm@hotmail.com.

Morgantown ACLU Patriot Act-Free Petition Drive Still Underway

The Morgantown ACLU chapter is still working on the campaign to make Morgantown a Patriot Act-free community and is now trying to determine how many petitions may be outstanding toward the goal of getting 2200 signatures. If you have a petition that you have not yet submitted, please contact Chris Chapman at champan_aclu@yahoo.com. If you would like to circulate petitions in support of this ordinance, please contact Leah Rye at squamishforever@yahoo.com. Only residents of the City of Morgantown are eligible to sign these petitions, and the preference is for permanent residents of the city.

WVU Events to Commemorate 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education - Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2004 - Mountainlair Ballrooms - 7:00-8:30 p.m.

"What Mama Taught Me: The Seven Core Values of Life"

Speaker: Tony Brown, Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication at Hampton University

Tony Brown will discuss his recent book, "What Mama Taught Me: The Seven Core Values of Life"

This includes Question and Answer Session.

Mountainlair Ballrooms - 8:30 p.m. - Book Signing

Program coordinated by Dana Brooks, Dean of School of Physical Education, Chair of Brown V. Board Event.

Holocaust Education Course to be Offered at WVU Next Summer

WVU's Dr. Mary E. Haas is offering C&I 694A: Holocaust Education: Issues and Strategies - an on-line course - during the summer II 2005 session. This is available for 3-6 credit hours. Completing the on-line course with its assignments, including the 2-week unit on the holocaust, will be worth 3 credits. Those who wish to be certified by the West Virginia Holocaust Education Commission as having a specialization in Holocaust Education should take the 6-hour option. Others who might be particularly interested in the course include certified teachers who want to teach about the Holocaust in courses on U.S. history, world history, government, world cultures, contemporary problems, literature, and art and art history; teachers who want to offer a Holocaust Education course as an elective at the middle school or high school level; students in English education or language arts who want to teach about the Holocaust; social studies majors or specialists in the Five Year Teacher Education Program; and students in the Post-BA secondary certification program who major in social studies. For further information, contact Dr. Mary E. Haas at 293-3442 ext. 1328 or email maryhaas1@mac.com.

An LGBT Legal Rights Primer; How Your Family can Survive and Thrive during these Confusing Times

Note: The following article is courtesy of Carrie and Elisia Ross-Stone, the "Rainbow Grannies." Carrie is a WVU graduate. This was written before the election, and the measures in all 11 states, referenced below, were defeated.

We all know the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community is under attack by George W. Bush and the Republican Party. They use fear and misinformation to promote mean-spirited laws that deny the rights, benefits and protections we need to care for our families.

Making matters worse, state and federal laws regarding LGBT relationship rights keep changing - sometimes for the better, but more often for the worse. Even while gay and lesbian couples are married in Massachusetts, voters in 11 states will decide on November 2 whether or not to amend their state constitution to ban same-sex marriage. Two states have already passed measures to amend their state's constitution.

Under the circumstances it is difficult to know what rights we do have. And no matter who is President of the United States when we wake up on November 3, the struggle for our equality will be with us for a very long time.

But what does all of this mean to LGBT families? What can we do to protect our family now and in the future?

It is true -- equal marriage is the only way gay and lesbian couples can obtain all the rights, protections and benefits available to American families. However, there is something we can do -- right now - to protect many of our basic rights and protections.

Legal documents such as a Living Will and Medical Power of Attorney let you appoint your partner to make medical decisions for you and visit you in the hospital when you are ill or injured. A Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA) will empower your partner to handle your finances while you are unable.

These vital documents are available FREE OF CHARGE to the LGBT community on www.RainbowLaw.com <<http://www.rainbowlaw.com/>> . Rainbow Law is a free service to help the LGBT community maneuver through complex legal issues during this confusing time. It is operated by Carrie and Elisia Ross-Stone, AKA the Rainbow Grannies. You may remember them as the lesbian grandmothers who rode bicycles across America in the spring of 2003 and again over the summer of 2004 to raise awareness about marriage equality.

A documentary about the 2004 Rainbow Ride ('A Time to Ride') is touring the country. You can see a 3 minute trailer at www.ATimetoRide.com <<http://www.atimetoride.com/>> .

Please take advantage of Rainbow Law's free service and get all your ducks in a row now, before it is too late!

CCSJ Steering Committee 2004-2005

Tim Hairston (Monongalia-Preston Labor Council AFL-CIO), President. Al Anderson, Vice President. Suzanne Gosden, Secretary. Barb Howe (WVU Center for Women's Studies), Treasurer. Mike Attfield. Judy Cohen. Lourdes Cottingham (Equality for All Americans). Kris Hash. Liliana Hernandez. Jacqueline Moseley. Shelly Barrick Parsons (Presbyterian campus ministry). Leah Rye (Caitas House). Michael Sharley. Eric Simpson (Caritas House). Deb Strouse (WV Center for Dispute Resolution).