

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

**Update: 10 December 2004 - International Human Rights Day**

## **I. CCSJ PROJECTS**

**Next Steering Committee Meeting to be announced. This will be in early January, but we are still trying to coordinate the steering committee members' schedules. Please contact our secretary, Suzanne Gosden, at [suzanne.gosden@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:suzanne.gosden@mail.wvu.edu) or our president, Tim Hairston, at [questz1@adelphia.net](mailto:questz1@adelphia.net) if you have issues for the steering committee to consider.**

### **Library Books Project**

The public library has finished purchasing most of the new books we have funded through our Appalachian Community Fund grant and City of Morgantown grant. We'll let you know when the new brochure is available that includes these purchases and will be working on purchases for the schools in the new year.

## **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 December 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. MEMBER ORGANIZATION NEWS**

### **Caritas House**

**Caritas House** always needs non-perishable foods for the food pantry. For the Sweet for the Sweet fundraising event, Caritas House is looking for local merchants or individuals who will donate goods or services for the silent auction. Items should be of sufficient value to make them worth bidding on. Donations or questions should be directed to Caritas House. Please contact Catharine Clarenbach at 304-598-5111 or [cclarenbach@caritashouse.org](mailto:cclarenbach@caritashouse.org).

## **New Organizational Member**

We welcome the Presbyterian Student Fellowship as a new organizational member of CCSJ. According to its web site, "The Presbyterian Student Fellowship is open to all undergraduate and graduate students at WVU and those connected to the WVU community and campus. You do not have to be Presbyterian to participate in the PSF. We meet for Bible study, attend worship together at First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown, enjoy times of fellowship and partner in outreach to the community through organizations such as the Mon County Habitat for Humanity." For further information, contact the Rev. Shelly Barrick Parsons, Presbyterian University Minister, at 293 Willey Street, Morgantown, West Virginia 26505, Phone: 304-292-4061, or email [shellybparsons@msn.com](mailto:shellybparsons@msn.com). The web site is at [www.psfatwvu.org](http://www.psfatwvu.org).

## **Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration and Unity Breakfast**

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration will take place Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m., with details to be announced. The Unity Breakfast will be held on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, from 8a.m.-10a.m. in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms. Contact the Center for Black Culture and Research at 293-7029 for more information. Reservations are requested for the breakfast, which is free and open to the public.

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

### **GLBT Holiday Potluck**

Wednesday December 15, 2004 - 6:30pm - 500 Grand Street, South Park, Morgantown

Come Celebrate Family and the Holidays w/ Your Community!!!!!!!

For information, please contact Sara Bird at [sarabirdpearl@hotmail.com](mailto:sarabirdpearl@hotmail.com).

### **15th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Achievement Award Nominations Due December 13**

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](http://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](mailto:todd.mcfadden@mail.wvu.edu).

### **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](mailto:champan_aclu@yahoo.com). If you would like to circulate petitions in support of this ordinance, please contact Leah Rye at [squamishforever@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

### **Health Promotion Advocates Needed**

The goal of Health Promotion Advocates is to “Promote healthy lifestyles among all Americans and thereby reduce medical costs and utilization improve quality of life, and enhance productivity.” The group was formed “to create a grassroots effort to garner more federal funding for health promotion.” If you are interested in being involved, you can sign up to call your representatives in Congress to encourage their support of these efforts. A local West Virginia group has recently started. For more information, go to [www.healthpromotionadvocates.org](http://www.healthpromotionadvocates.org).

### **Rape and Domestic Violence Center Wish List**

The Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center, Inc., has a wish list of needs. The shelter needs paper products, cleaning and laundry supplies, bed linens, bath towels, twin size comforters and twin size blankets. The shelter office needs a 4-drawer file cabinet and hanging file folders. Food items needed include prepared sauces, juices, cereal, coffee, sugar, spices and herbs, including ethnic products; opened or partially used ethnic products cannot be accepted. RDVIC also needs umbrellas, slippers, night shirts, blow dryers, sweat suits, gift cards to area stores like K-Mart, and pre-paid telephone cards. For more information, call 304-292-5100 (answered 24 hours a day) or email [rdvic99@earthlink.net](mailto:rdvic99@earthlink.net).

### **Update from Rainbow Law**

Note: The following article is courtesy of Carrie Ross-Stone, the “Rainbow Grannies.” Carrie is a WVU graduate.

“Immediately after the November 2004 election results were announced, supporters of gay and lesbian equality felt an enormous amount of anger, frustration, grief and disappointment. It was difficult if not impossible to consider what we ought to do next. Nevertheless, Rainbow Law received hundreds of emails and telephone calls asking that very question.

“At first, Elisia and I were too discouraged to respond. Having just finished a 3800 mile cross-country bicycle ride to raise awareness about marriage equality, we were especially devastated by the loss. As we renewed our hope and energy over the month of November, we decided to harness our anger and use it to promote a greater understanding of same-sex families and our need for equal marriage rights.

“That is why Rainbow Law is launching the Equality through Education Project -- to create positive images of gay and lesbian families. We believe the best way to combat ignorance is through education, and the most effective method for exposing a lie is with overwhelming evidence of the truth.

“Throughout the long and often vicious campaign, equal marriage opponents monopolized the conversation. They told lies and spread fear about the consequences of granting equal marriage rights to same-sex couples. It is likely that the vast majority of red-staters have never met a gay or lesbian couple. And because they only received a distorted version of the gay marriage issue, ordinary and otherwise good natured Americans went to the polls on November 2 and voted for mean-spirited and unnecessary constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage.

“Now it is abundantly clear that we must take back control of the marriage equality debate. After all, we are the people whose lives are directly affected and harmed by unequal treatment and unfair laws.

“Elisia and I know better than anyone that it is impossible to meet with each and every voter face-to-face. But, when given the opportunity to tell our side of the story, we were able to change hearts and minds.

“It is this knowledge that inspires the Equality through Education Project.

“The project is a work-in-progress and we hope to expand its role in creating positive social change over time. The first action we envision under the project is the creation of an art exhibit that will travel across America - especially through the red states.

“And that is where you come in. This project requires your participation to succeed. First we need your photos, sketches, poems and stories - anything that expresses and represents your family and your life. You may E-mail, fax or snail-mail them to us. We also need to hear from artists who are inspired to create works of art -visual or performance -- from the material we receive.

“In the meantime, Rainbow Law will work with organizations throughout the US to arrange a national tour of the exhibit so that our truth will be communicated across America. If you are involved in an organization and you want to help with this project, please let us know.

“The Equality through Education Project gives everyone an opportunity to participate in an action to create a positive image of LGBT families - whether or not you are free to travel or find it difficult to be open and public about your lifestyle.

“To submit your photos and stories, log onto [www.RainbowLaw.com](http://www.RainbowLaw.com). The link to the Equality through Education Project is on the right hand menu. While you are there, please take the time to check out our other new projects and services, including our Uncensored E-Zine, Petition, and Boycott. And of course your suggestions and ideas are always encouraged.

“We hope these projects help to answer the question -- what should we do now?

Take care,  
Carrie & Elisia

Web: [www.RainbowLaw.com](http://www.RainbowLaw.com); Email: [info@RainbowLaw.com](mailto:info@RainbowLaw.com)

Phone: (800) 891-8189; Snail-Mail: 1822 Listravia Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505

#### ***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).