

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

Update: 15 April 2005

I. CCSJ PROJECTS

Next Steering Committee Meeting - Wednesday, May 18, 7:00 p.m., Public Safety Building Conference Room, Spruce Street. Please contact our secretary, Suzanne Gosden, at suzanne.gosden@mail.wvu.edu or our president, Tim Hairston, at questz1@adelphia.net if you have issues for the steering committee to consider.

County Commission Funding

We are pleased to announce that the Monongalia County Commission has granted us, pending approval of the State Tax Department, \$500 to be used during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005. At the suggestion of Commissioner Asel Kennedy, while we were preparing our request, we will use these funds to support a "History Alive!" program from the West Virginia Humanities Council during Black History Month in February 2006. The WVU Center for Black Culture and Research has agreed to cooperate with us on this project, which will bring someone to Morgantown to portray a famous individual in African-American history.

County Human Rights Commission

If you are interested in exploring this idea for Monongalia County, please contact Suzanne Gosden, Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu, or Al Anderson at 328-5002. We would have to show a need for such a group, as well as a structure, how this would work with the state human rights commission, etc. - including how a government body would differ from a not-for-profit group like CCSJ.

Economic Justice-Social Security

Dave Cormier of the WVU Institute for Labor Studies has asked if we would like to host a forum on social security issues. Please contact Barb Howe if you are interested in such a program.

Library Books Update

We are in the process of purchasing books for HeadStart teachers.

II. PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES AND IDEAS!

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 Atfield at atfield@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 1. 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. MEMBER ORGANIZATION NEWS

National Organization for Women

The next meeting of the Morgantown Chapter of NOW will be held at 7 p.m. on May 9th, in room 162 of the Law School. Anyone interested in participating in the group this spring who has not become a member of NOW may get a form to print off at www.now.org/membership/member-print.html or join for on-line at www.now.org/member.html. You can renew membership at www.now.org/renew.html. Please include the Morgantown chapter code, which is WV0205. For information about the chapter, contact Jessi Kalvitis at hagdinvincible@yahoo.com.

Center for Women's Studies

The Center for Women's Studies Annual Honors and Awards Ceremony will be Saturday, April 16th, at 7:00 p.m. at WVU's E. Moore Hall. This will also be a celebration of the center's 25th anniversary. For further information, contact Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu or 293-2339 ext. 1155.

Center for Black Culture and Research

The WVU Center for Black Culture and Research will hold its annual Carter G. Woodson Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 16th, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in Hatfields at the WVU Mountainlair. For further information, please contact the Center at 293-7029.

IV. LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL NEWS

WVU Gay Pride Week Events for Today, April 15

Gay Pride Week is ending today. The event for today is a Hate Speech booth in the WVU Mountainlair with FEM/DEMA with a hate speech collage and a suggestions/comment box to get responses for people's reactions. There will then be a Speak Out in 205 Martin Hall at WVU from 5 pm-6 pm and a Gayla Ball at the Monongalia Arts Center. The curtain call is at 6:30 pm with a dance after the performances. Then, Drink a Beer with a Queer at Vice Versa-after the Gayla Ball.

Equal Pay Day is April 19 (Women's Inequality Day)

From the West Virginia Women's Commission:

"Equal Pay Day is observed in April to indicate how far into each year a woman must work to earn as much as a man earned in the previous year. Tuesday symbolizes the day when women's wages catch up to men's wages from the previous week. Because women on average earn less, they must work longer for the same pay.

“Research launched in January by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Educational Foundation reported that nationally, college-educated women earn only 72 percent as much as college-educated men, a wage gap of 28 cents on the dollar. In every state, a persistent and significant gap exists between the earnings of college-educated, full-time working women and college-educated, full-time working men.

“The Institute for Women's Policy Research (Washington D.C.) Fact Sheet indicates that in 1999 the median annual earnings for full-time, year-round employed women as a whole in West Virginia was \$23,200.

“On Tuesday, April 19, 2005 Governor Manchin will sign an Equal Pay Proclamation at noon in his reception area at the State Capitol. Attendance is encouraged at this event!!!

In Morgantown, there will be an event at Madeleine's Restaurant on High Street, across from the Hotel Morgan, from 4:30 pm.-7:00 pm. The Morgantown Business and Professional Women and American Association of University Women are among the co-sponsors.

West Virginia Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights/Clergy & Laity: Pro-Faith, Pro-Family, Pro-Choice

The West Virginia Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights is now an approved provisional affiliate of the national religious coalition for reproductive choice. Now, the group is allowed to use the RCRC name and receive free literature and training on incorporating our affiliate and other activities. To get on the mailing list for this group and participate in its work, please email wvrcrc@yahoo.com

Mon-Earth Benefit Concert April 22

Here is the publicity release for this event!

The Mon-Earth (<http://monearth.org/>) Benefit Concert for sale. It will be held on Earth Day, Friday, April 22, 2005 at the Metropolitan Theatre. The doors open at 6:30 and the concert starts at 7:30. It will feature four nationally touring music acts including:

“John Flynn <<http://johnflynn.net/>>[johnflynn](http://johnflynn.net/)<[http://johnflynn.net.](http://johnflynn.net/) John Flynn writes and sings passionate songs of humor and social consciousness.

“FREEBO & PHOTOGLO www.freebophotoglo.com. Freebo first gained national recognition for playing bass during his decade-long tenure with Bonnie Raitt..... Jim Photoglo has attained notoriety as a highly respected Nashville songwriter.....

“The Rowan Brothers www.rowanbrothers.com. From early on, Chris and Lorin Rowan played in folk, bluegrass and pop bands both with and without their more famous brother Peter Rowan (of Earth Opera fame)..

“disappear fear
<<http://www.soniadf.com/disappearfear.htm>><http://www.soniadf.com/disappearfear>.<<http://www.soniadf.com/disappearfear.htm>>htm

“SONiA is back agin this year, and this time she brings her ‘one really cool all girl hippie jam band’.”

Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door; Students: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. All tickets are general admission.

Tickets are available April 5 through the following Morgantown area retailers and may be purchased with cash or a personal check made out to "The Sierra Club".

ZENCLAY (University), The Blue Moose (Walnut Street), Adventure's Edge (Pleasant Street), The Bookshelf (by the Office Depot), G's Fitness (Fairmont Road, Westover), and Mountain People's Co-Op (Beechhurst Avenue.)

You can also order them online through friends of the cheat:

<<http://cheat.org/events/mon-earth-concert>><http://cheat.org/events/mon-earth-concert>>-earth-concert

A This year, 50 percent of the concert proceeds goes to the local chapter of the Sierra Club, and the remaining 50 percent of proceeds will be split among the Friends of Deckers Creek, the Mon River Trail Conservancy and the Wilderness coalition. Different recipient organizations will be selected to split the remaining 50 percent of the concert proceeds next year.

A Participating environmental organizations will set up on table space in the lobby. The Mon-Earth.org home page (<http://monearth.org/>) focuses on the participating environmental organizations with brief descriptions and web links. It can thus be used as a gateway to any of the local environmental organizations.

National Women's Health Week Starts May 8

The WVU National Center of Excellence in Women's Health will be participating in National Women's Health Week, which starts May 8th. Some related activities will take place throughout the month of May as we link this week with the West Virginia Walks campaign and the National Employee Health and Fitness Week. To find out more about national events for Women's Health Week, go to www.4woman.gov. Local events will be publicized on the COEWH web site at www.wvhealthywomen.org of contact Barb Howe, outreach co-chair, at 293-2339 ext. 1155 or barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu.

Morgantown ACLU Patriot Act-Free Petition Drive Update

The Morgantown ACLU is still working on this petition drive. Liam Honecker, vice president for the local ACLU chapter, is in charge of this effort now. Anyone who would like to volunteer to serve on this committee should contact him at liamsegg@verizon.net, but anyone can still contact Leah Rye at squamishforever@yahoo.com with questions or requests for petitions. Leah reports that the group is getting very close to its goal of 20,000 signatures and hopes to take the petition to City Council in the near future. Only residents of the City of Morgantown are eligible to sign these petitions, and the preference is for permanent residents of the city.

Why Mountain Justice Summer?

The following information is excerpted from material supplied by Leah Rye.

"Mountain Justice Summer is a call to action and a request for help from the people of the Appalachia mountains for help in saving our mountains, streams—and forest from greedy coal companies. But why are we asking for help?"

"Frankly its because we are losing. Over 1000 miles of stream have been buried and destroyed and countless mountains and ridge tops have been blown up—gone for all eternity. Additionally, under the bush [*sic*] administration laws have been altered to encourage and accelerate the destruction. The price of coal has doubled and the destruction of our watersheds is accelerating, and spreading out like cancer—not slowing down. Our state and federal agencies charged with protecting our environment are dealing out permits to these coal companies like

crack dealers on the street corner—the coal is the crack—and the coal companies the addicts that will kill, destroy entire mountain ranges and bury streams in order to get their black fix. . . .

“We need help testing streams for their Ph (how acid they are). Many of our streams are as acidic as lemon juice and run bright green from the mine run off. We wish to test as many streams as possible this summer. We need help going door to door listening to folks who live in communities next to these mines. We need photographers and writers to come and document the damage being done and to spread the word. Silence and ignorance is these greedy corporate carpetbagging coal companies greatest weapon. We must show America and the world this crime of geologic proportions. We need artist to help us make signs and props for rallies and demonstrations which we will keep and use for years. We need cooks to prepare food, people to go through our towns before tours fliering and posterig to increase turn out. We need musicians to learn and create and sing songs of our mountains and the annihilation of entire communities and watersheds. We need scouts with trucks to travel gravel back roads to ID mines and permit sites—we need help. Cooks, geologist, map makers, artist, musicians, drivers—we need you and your help for the summer.

“But volunteer with open eyes. Mountain Justice Summer is modeled (loosely) on Mississippi and Redwood summers. In both campaigns the realities of the settings were made explicit to participants. . . .

“Mountain Justice Summer is committed to safety—but have no illusions ours is a land literally under attack. Measure your commitment and understand why you are volunteering—ask questions, research and do some soul searching. We are committed to being transparent to everyone about the conditions and risk we face struggling for the survival of our mountains this summer. Join our electronic newsletter at (<http://lists.riseup.net/www/subrequest/mjsnews>) for updates. Fill our and intake form and we will contact you to answer your questions—ask us allot of questions.(<http://mountainjusticesummer.org/IntakeForm.htm>) We want all the participants to be crystal clear about the on the ground situation—you will know everything we do, no secrets.

“Where There's A Will, There's A Gay”

This information is excerpted from a press release from Rainbow Law, as a result of Terri Schiavo’s death.

“When a gay or lesbian partner suffers the cruel injustice of losing the right to make decisions or even the right to hospital visitation of a partner who is injured or dying, where is the public outcry? Where is the media?

“Unlike Terri and Michael Shaivo, same-sex partners have no automatic right to make decisions for each other. Which is why, more than ever, same-sex couples need to put their wishes in writing. . . .

“Advance Directives are Powers of Attorney for Finances and Health Care Decisions and Living Wills. ”“With these documents we are able to empower our partner to make medical and financial decisions for us, visit us in the hospital and to direct our own end of life care and treatment’,” explained Elisia Ross-Stone.

“To order Rainbow Law's free Advance Directives through the [FREE DOCUMENT FUND] simply provide your full name, address, phone number, and the name of your COUNTY (not country) as well as the full name, address and phone number of the person you wish to appoint as your agent and send them to info@RainbowLaw.com. For more information about free Advance Directives and other services provided by Rainbow Law, visit www.RainbowLaw.com.”

National Conference on Media Reform in St. Louis

The National Conference on Media Reform will be held in St. Louis on May 13-15. John Lozier is planning to attend this event and is interested in hearing from anyone else in the Morgantown area who wishes to go with him.

Featured speakers will be author and National Public Radio commentator Jim Hightower; Juan Gonzalez and Amy Goodman, co-hosts of "Democracy Now!"; and syndicated columnist Arianna Huffington.

For more information, please go to www.freepress.net/conference/. You can reach John at jl@harpingforharmony.org or by calling him at 599-8233.

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).