

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

Update: 24 May 2005

I. CCSJ PROJECTS

Next Steering Committee Meeting - Wednesday, July 20, 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.

History Alive! Presentation

We are starting our plans for a History Alive! presentation for February or March 2006, in conjunction with Black History Month or Women's History Month. This is a program from the West Virginia Humanities Council, and we will use the funding from the Monongalia County Commission to support this program, which will feature someone portraying a famous person, then answering questions about the person and his/her life. Al Anderson has agreed to provide music for the event, and the Morgantown Public Library is interested in cooperating with us to provide a story hour or some similar activity through the Shelley A. Marshall Foundation that it uses for public events. The Center for Black Culture and Research at WVU has agreed to co-sponsor the History Alive! program. More details will be announced as they are available.

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

We may be co-sponsoring a program on this with the Mon-Preston Labor Council and the labor councils that serve Harrison and Marion counties. More details will be announced as they are available.

Library Books Update

We have purchased and delivered books to the Head Start program and to the Monongalia County Parent Educator Resource Center (PERC).

Shelly Parsons is updating our brochure to show which books that we have purchased over the years are now also available at the Cheat Lake public library and, through the Appalachian Community Fund, through the Clinton District and Clay-Battelle Public Libraries. We would like to distribute the brochure as widely as possible, including to the area settlement houses, day care centers, churches and the synagogue, and agencies like Stepping Stones. We have funds through our Appalachian Community Fund grant to print the brochure, so please send Barb Howe ideas on how to get these to the best possible places, in addition to being at the libraries.

The Morgantown City Council has again generously agreed to provide \$1000 for the next fiscal year, starting July 1, to purchase books for the Morgantown Public Library. We agreed to look at books related to Native Americans for next year, and we are working with the WVU Native American Studies Program on this effort, as they are developing the recommended list for us.

Annual Meeting Plans

We would like to hold our annual meeting during the 3rd or 4th week of September and would like to do another "social justice organizations fair," as we did last year. More details will be available in a future Update., but please contact Barb Howe if you'd like to help organize this.

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 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 15. 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

WVU-ACE Meets Tomorrow!

WVU-ACE is sponsoring a program on "WVEA/NEA Membership: Getting the Most for Your Dues Dollars" tomorrow, May 25, from 3 pm-5pm at the WVU-ACE office at 1137 Van Voorhis Rd., Suite 6, in Morgantown. The notice says that "You'll learn ways that you can save more than the cost of dues, turning your membership into an investment." The presenter will be Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Member Benefits Consultant.

IV. LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL NEWS

Update from Rainbow Law:

"The documentary, "Lesbian Grandmothers from Mars" (www.lesbiangrandmothersfrommars.com), will premier at the San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival on June 25th at 11:00 am at the Victoria theatre in San Francisco. The film captures our literal highs and lows as we journey across America's heartland from San Francisco to New York City on the 2004 Rainbow Ride. The unusual title of the film derives from the headline of an article written about us as we traveled through Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. When a journalist from the Pittsburgh City Paper discovered that Carrie grew up in nearby Mars, PA, he chose to emphasize our connection to the

community with a headline using a clever play on words. The filmmaker (Keith Wilson of Wall-Eye Productions) was tickled by the headline and since there is now a plethora of films about same-sex marriage, he wanted his to stand out from the crowd. So "Lesbian Grandmothers from Mars" it is. If you are interested in having the film shown in your community let us know and we will be happy to help you set that up. We are even available to attend your showing to talk about our experience and answer your questions in person. *[Note: You can contact Carrie and Elisia Ross-Stone at rainbowlaw_1@hotmail.com]*

Also, "Rainbow Law is now in the newsletter publishing business! After the devastating 2004 elections (where the "threat" of gay marriage was used as a wedge to pass hateful amendments and to grab power and money) we realized the importance of an independent media that reports positive news about progressive values. Thus we created Rainbow Law's Un-Censored E-Zine (aka R.U.E.) to bring you daily news and other information relevant to the LGBTQ and progressive community. R.U.E. also includes an extensive state-by-state directory of services and organizations as well as classified ad space. Both the ads and the directory are free so please feel free to submit your business, service or ad."

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).