



The Official Newsletter of the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice
1620 18th Ave, Suite 10, Seattle, WA 98122

South End Residents Turn Off Their Engines For Asthma Health

By Secret Charles, CCEJ Staff

In April 2006, a group of parents and grandparents known as the Partnership for Environmental Health and Asthma (PEHA), spearheaded a No-Idling campaign to address air quality in their South Seattle neighborhoods. Organized by CCEJ, PEHA's first accomplishment was in educating hundreds of community members on the facts about idling and asthma. Idling is anytime the engine is left running when the vehicle is not in motion. PEHA encourages responsible drivers to shut off their engines when going inside convenience stores for quick purchases. The Victory Grocery, located at 7900 Renton Avenue South, recently accepted PEHA members' invitation to post a No-Idle Zone sign outside the store as well as the Busy Bee.



Victory! PEHA's "No Idle Zone" sign outside the Victory Grocery

PEHA's second accomplishment was bringing government agencies, local businesses and nonprofits together. On May 5, 2007, PEHA sponsored a CHARGE-N-GO event at Saar's Market to promote the use of Electric Vehicles and to educate the community about vehicle emissions. The Seattle Electric Vehicle Association demonstrated several models, including the Corbin Sparrow. The Corbin Sparrow is a single-passenger, three wheeler, battery electric vehicle designed specifically for commuting and city driving. The Sparrow has a range of 20 to 40 miles and a ...Continued pg.6

CCEJ Welcomes Leaders from Chengdu, China

By Kate Villarreal, CCEJ Staff

In early April, Chinese environmental leaders Liu Yang and Zhe Zang visited the CCEJ office and met with staff Kate, Secret, and Judith. The visit was made possible by the World Affairs Council and the U.S. State Department. The visitors took interest in CCEJ's recruitment strategies and asked questions about keeping members engaged in the work.



Staff from the State Dept., World Affairs Council and CCEJ with guest Zhe Zang (3rd from left)

The topic of womens' leadership generated conversation since both visitors work with women in rural areas, where gender roles tend to be more traditional. Liu Yang capped off the conversation by asking our opinions on the movie **Crash**, which led to some insightful discussion on race relations in the U.S.

Liu Yang is project director with the Green Students Organizations Society and Zhe Zhang is a program officer with the Roots and Shoots program. Both work in the Sichuan area. For more info, visit www.ecologia.org and www.jgichina.org.

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Connecting Asa Mercer Students with E.J. and Katrina

By Aeric Banks
CCEJ Intern

As an addition to the Social Studies curriculum at Asa Mercer Middle School, teacher Inye Wokome integrated sections on Environmental Justice and Hurricane Katrina through a series of presentations from outside individuals and organizations. The last presentation in the series came from CCEJ. On March 30, I had the privilege of sharing a presentation entitled, “Environmental Justice, Hurricane Katrina, and YOUR Community” with fifty middle school students in the Asa Mercer Middle School cafeteria. Before I could introduce myself, a girl in the corner shot up her hand and waved it wildly. I called on her and she asked me, her head cocked to the side, “What are you?” I ran the list off in my head: I’m nineteen, a college sophomore, intern with CCEJ. Then I realized she was asking for my ethnicity, an understandable question if you attend a school with as diverse a population as Asa Mercer.

“Before I could introduce myself, a girl in the corner shot up her hand and waved it wildly. I called on her and she asked me, her head cocked to the side, “What are you?””

Fifty five percent of its students identify as Asian, twenty four percent as African American, thirteen percent as Latino, six percent as Caucasian, and one percent identify as American Indian with eighteen percent of students enrolled in a bilingual education program (Mercer Middle School 2006 Annual Report). I presented to a cross section of fifty out of the school’s 746 students. There were no white students, and many of the students did not identify in the general categories of ethnicity. When I officially introduced myself, I asked the students to demonstrate the diversity of their school by sharing their ethnicities. There were Samoan students, Middle Eastern students, biracial and multiracial students, students of every color and culture.



With this emphasis on diversity in mind, we then talked about the areas that CCEJ had worked in the past. Many students lived in Georgetown, South Park, Rainier Valley, and Beacon Hill. So, when we started discussing Environmental Justice issues in Seattle, the students easily related to the images and facts on the screen. In fact, many students were not surprised to see the correlation between toxic waste dumps and low income/minority neighborhoods depicted on screen.

We journeyed from their backyards to the Ninth Ward of New Orleans. Many students were shocked to realize that the pictures of oil slicks, injured people, and segregated neighborhoods were taken three years after the flood. Some students even questioned the validity of race in the discrimination of Katrina because, to them, that is how it had always been. Although initially shocked by the images, they were not surprised that the majority of affected people were black. They were not surprised that these affected people were still mostly homeless. That shock subsided into a resigned, “Well, that’s the way it is.” The final slides asked the students to come up with ways to affect change in their community and provided them with some ideas. It was important to impart the hope and idea that situations like Katrina don’t have to happen and that the outcome can change. Hopefully, these ideas took hold in their minds.

Call for the Second Hurricane Survivors Assembly

In accord with the principle that “the People Must Decide”, the People’s Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition (PHRF/OC) calls for the convening of the Second Survivors Assembly on Saturday, August 25th – Tuesday, August 28th, 2007 in New Orleans, Louisiana. For more information, visit www.peopleshurricane.org or call (504) 301-0215.

“We Must Build a Strong, Independent Gulf Coast Self-Determination and Reconstruction Movement so the People Can Decide!”

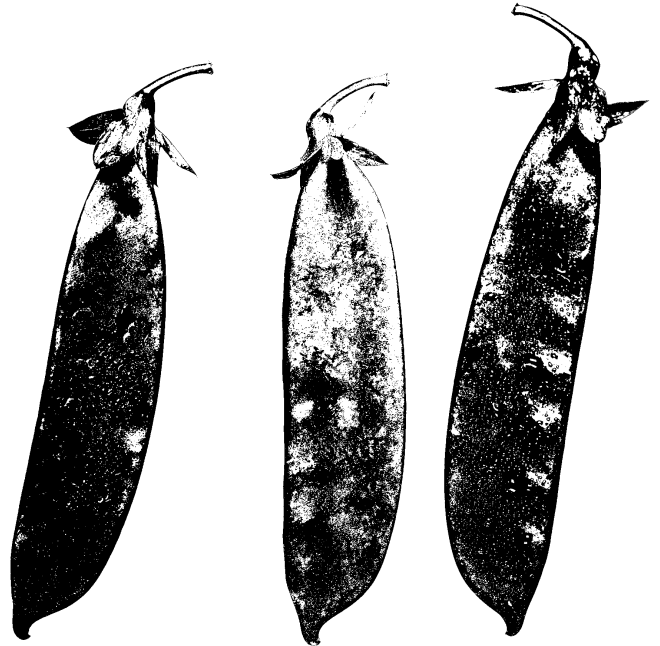
Concern for the Community: Partnering for Justice

By Caple Melton, CCEJ Partner

As a cooperative institution, Central Co-op's Madison Market is guided by seven internationally recognized cooperative principles: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member economic participation; autonomy and independence; and concern for community. It is the seventh principle, concern for community, which informs our relationship with the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice.

Since 2005, the co-op has partnered with CCEJ in support of their mission: to achieve environmental and economic justice in low-income communities and communities of color. Much of CCEJ's work is exacted in neighborhoods recognized as food deserts, where residents' primary grocers are convenience stores and gas stations. Recognizing the correlation between

“Throughout 2007, Central Co-op's Madison Market will provide nearly \$3,000 in support of CCEJ activities”



personal and environmental health, the co-op nourishes both folks targeted by injustice and allies working to secure a louder voice for the systemically ignored. In turn, CCEJ forges change that corresponds with our values but is outside the scope of operating a community-owned natural foods grocery.

Responsive relationships, like that of ours and CCEJ, encourage sustainable community transformation. Throughout 2007, Central Co-op's Madison Market will provide nearly \$3,000 in support of CCEJ activities, such as: the Partnership for Environmental Health and Asthma (PEHA); Environmental Justice Youth Advocates, environmental justice tours, racial justice movie nights, community education workshops, internal meetings, and the annual Community-Based Solutions for Environmental Health and Justice conference.

Madison Market is committed to community wellness and, as such, we feel privileged to organize with one of Seattle's most important agencies, the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice.

Caple Melton is the Educational Outreach Assistant with Central Co-op's Madison Market, an independent natural foods cooperative serving Central Seattle. For additional information about the co-op, visit: www.madisonmarket.com.



*A Partnership on Madison!
Dean Jackson and Kate Villarreal of CCEJ with Caple Melton,
Educational Outreach Assistant for Madison Market*

Housing Highs and Lows



More Affordable Housing Threatened

By Aeric Banks, CCEJ Intern

The Lora Lake Apartment complex is located near what will be the third runway for the Seattle International Airport but is not in the zone for demolition. Still, the Port of Seattle and the city of Burien plan to demolish 162 affordable apartments. Their purpose in destroying these increasingly rare affordable housing units is to court a warehouse company or large retailer into buying the land and developing a retail site.

On May 7, the Burien City Council discussed the issue publicly and voted to proceed with the demolition, requiring the closing of the apartments this summer. According to the Port of Seattle news, residents have until June 20th to move out.

Seattle has an alarmingly limited amount of affordable housing. According to the latest Affordable Housing Bulletin of King County, written in 2004, only 315 rental units were affordable to the 65,000 people who earn 30% of the median income (less than \$18,100 a year). For the 85,000 who make 30-40% of the median income, only 30,500 affordable units were available.

For an apartment to be affordable for this income bracket, rent would need to be less than \$600 a month. As of October 2006, according to the Seattle Office of Housing, the average rent of a 20+ unit apartment building citywide was \$962, their highest level ever.

Although affordable housing has slightly increased, we are still living with a deficit in affordable housing. In 2005, 500 residential units were destroyed. 33% of these units were multifamily, and 34% were single family residences. The average number of people who needed relocation assistance after these residential demolitions increased from 107 to 144 in 2005.

Seattle Housing Authority Issues Tougher Requirements for Those On Waiting List

By Aeric Banks
CCEJ Intern

Seattle Housing Authority has instituted new requirements for those on the waiting list for public housing. In order to save their spots on the waiting list, applicants must check in with the SHA by internet or phone on a monthly basis starting June 1st. If they do not check in, their application will be cancelled. Monthly check-in is required of all applicants on the Yesler Terrace, Scattered Sites and all public housing high rise building waiting lists.

This new policy discriminates against the many immigrant and non-English speaking members of the community who are in need of public housing as the application is not translated in any other language besides English. This new policy also opens up the door to fraud as it requires that applicants provide their full social security number.

For more information, contact the Seattle Displacement Coalition at: 206-632-0668 or sdc@zipcon.net

Yesler Terrace Redevelopment Update

By Kate Villarreal, CCEJ Staff

The Seattle Housing Authority began convening a Citizens Review Committee (CRC) last fall whose duty is to make recommendations on how to redevelop Yesler Terrace. The committee is chaired by former mayor Norm Rice and includes approximately twenty members, four of whom are Yesler Terrace residents.

The Committee has been meeting once a month and progress can be described as "slow" at best. While SHA has been making the meetings accessible to its residents, the agenda and facilitation style fall short when it comes to actually *including* them. Residents have also expressed frustration that their basic questions and requests for information from past meetings have still not been met.

CCEJ has advised SHA to work harder to create an atmosphere of equality and respect so that communities can participate in the Committee meetings beyond a "token" level. Recently professional mediators Marcia Tata Arunga and Mayet Dalila were invited in to try and sort out the conflict that community members have with SHA and to get the residents' questions answered.

On a somewhat positive note, demolition has been delayed another year with projections now being for 2010.



What's Cookin' in South Park?

By Jesse Gonzalez, CCEJ volunteer and Kate Villarreal, staff

This year from January 2007 through February 2007 a health assessment survey was conducted in the South Park community. The focus was on neighborhoods west of the Duwamish River, north of S 96th St, west of the 509 Freeway, and south of the 1st Ave. Bridge. Questions concerning the communities needs, health, and concerns were asked.

The responses varied and were extensive but after collecting the data some patterns emerged. The question on rating your overall health has 64% of the community answering as having good health. 13% of the households have had someone hospitalized for asthma, and 11% have someone taking medication for asthma. Of the community members who were asked if they have health insurance, 51% answered yes.

Regarding the health concerns for households in the South Park community, no single health concern seemed to outweigh the others. The question focused on cancer, diabetes, respiratory, and heart problems. Some other concerns community members wrote in were: common colds, Multiple sclerosis, and Tuberculosis. Community members were asked if there is much car and truck traffic in South Park. 64% answered that there is much traffic in their neighborhoods. 44% are interested in knowing more about the effects of vehicle idling on health. 38% of the community would like to support efforts to limit vehicle idling in South Park. A question asking what the community needs showed that 90% feel violence and crime prevention is very important.



Sharon Chung, CCEJ member, grilling burgers at the Barbeque event



EJYA Alumni Gardenia Vivas (top left) and family came out to support CCEJ's work in South Park

Mark your calendars for CCEJ's 6th annual environmental justice conference:

***RACE, POWER, AND THE ENVIRONMENT:
LIBERATING OUR COMMUNITIES FROM TOXINS***

Keynote address by Dr. Joy DeGruy-Leary, author of
Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome
Workshops + Resource Fair

Saturday, August 25th, 2007 9am to 6pm
South Seattle Community College
*Childcare and interpreting provided

CCEJ reported back our survey results at a barbeque event we held at the South Park Community Center in late April. We are using this information to help shape our future work as an organization. Right now we are in the planning stage of our 6th annual environmental justice conference. This year's event will include workshops that are specifically for the South Park community, based on our conversations with residents there. We are also spending the summer raising money so that we may pursue future campaign work. Because South Park is located in Seattle's most contaminated zip code and is home to low income and working class people, CCEJ is committed to having an organizational presence in the 98108 area into the future.

For a complete copy of the survey report or to request information on CCEJ's conference, please contact organizer Kate Villarreal at 720-0285 x5.

“South End Residents”, cont’d from page 1

top speed of 70mph. Energy is supplied by thirteen 12-volt deep-cycle lead-acid batteries. While community members checked out the electric cars and trucks, PEHA leaders recruited them to take the No-Idling Pledge.

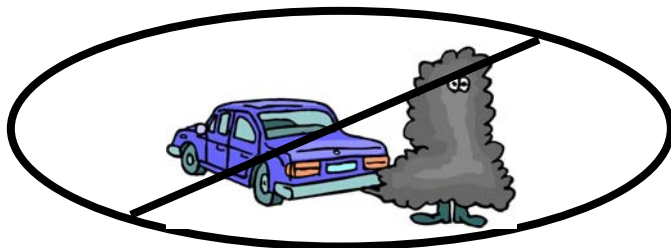
At the heart of PEHA’s work is addressing asthma suffering. Since 1980, asthma prevalence, hospitalization, and mortality rates have been increasing in the United States. Because of the concern about asthma morbidity in children in King County, the departments of Public Health—Seattle and King County (PH-SKC) conducted a study that analyzed trends in local hospitalizations for childhood asthma during 1987-1998. This report summarizes the results of this analysis, which indicate that the youngest children and the poorest communities have the highest rates of asthma hospitalization (CDC, 2000).

There is no cure for asthma, but the disease can be controlled in most patients with good medical care. Asthma is a disease that affects the breathing passages of the lungs (bronchioles). Asthma is caused by chronic (ongoing, long-term) inflammation of these passages. This makes the breathing passages, or airways, of the person with asthma highly sensitive to various “triggers.” Because asthma causes resistance, or obstruction, to exhaled air, it is called an obstructive lung disease.

“Reducing greenhouse-gas emissions is important because of climate change. Reducing the amount of vehicle exhaust in south Seattle is also important for adults and children living with asthma.”

Researchers from our local health department in Seattle-King County, Washington analyzed 12 years of data on asthma hospitalizations among children 1 -17 years old in the county. They found an increase in the asthma hospitalization rate, from 170 to 200 per 100,000 population, despite a 27% decrease in overall hospitalizations, among children in this age group over this time period. Results from this study have been used to mobilize community support and target asthma interventions in Seattle-King County, including the development of a coalition between the American Lung Association of Washington, the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health, and other organizations (CDC Media, 2000).

Reducing greenhouse-gas emissions is important because of climate change. Reducing the amount of vehicle exhaust in south Seattle is also important for adults and children living with asthma. The type of work that PEHA is doing fulfills several environmental education needs. These needs surround air pollution, transportation and health care. PEHA’s two greatest accomplishments include generating community interest and involvement in addressing asthma suffering in south Seattle through local knowledge and building partnerships with other agencies who share these concerns.



A youth checks out the Corbin Sparrow, an electric vehicle on display at the Charge’n’Go

CCEJ’s mission is to achieve environmental and economic justice in low-income communities & communities of color.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- David McGraw
- Elizabeth Moseley
- Jenni Conrad
- Jonathan Betz-Zall
- Tyrus Smith
- Christina Gallegos
- Alka Arora

STAFF

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- Interim Director
- judithvega@earthlink.net

- Secret Charles
- PEHA Manager
- Secret_charles@antiochsea.edu

- Mel Carnay
- Administrative Coordinator
- melcarnay@ccej.org

- Kate Villarreal,
- Community Organizer
- katev@ccej.org

Volunteer Update

By Mel Carnay

Several wonderful new volunteers joined us at CCEJ this quarter:

Jesse Dimmer
Katie Carey
Sue Barclift
Nicole Neumiller
Romelynn Eleno
Siena Ezekiel
Maryam Khajavi, intern
Meghan Whelan
Jonathan Yeh



Volunteering with CCEJ makes me smile!



Romelynn and Jonathan volunteering in South Park

Many thanks for your help around the office and in the community!

Interested in volunteering but can't make it to the office during business hours?

We have several volunteer opportunities that can be done either through telecommuting or outside the 9 to 5 work hours:

Translation – CCEJ would like to provide informational materials in a number of languages, as the communities we work with are incredibly diverse. We are looking for individuals with Spanish, Vietnamese, Cantonese Chinese, Mandarin Chinese, Somali, and Ethiopian language skills. Native speakers are especially encouraged to volunteer. Translating can be done on your own time and at your own pace.

Grant Research – While we're working on becoming less dependent on foundations and governmental funds, grants are still a large source of our funding as an organization. We are looking for individuals with a little bit of spare time to help search for grants whose funding categories we fit into. Like translating, this can be done on your own time.

Note Taking – We are currently looking for individuals to assist us in note taking during our various fundraising, hiring, conference planning committee meetings, as well as at our board meetings. If you're interested in seeing what's happening "on the ground" at CCEJ and have good note taking and typing skills, we'd love to have you around! Meetings are usually in the evenings between 6-8pm, and board meetings are generally on Tuesdays. There is no commitment to the number of meetings to attend.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, contact Mel Carnay, Administrative Coordinator, at melcarnay@ccej.org or (206) 720-0285 ex. 4 for more details.

Searching the Internet for Social Justice

By Mel Carnay

When I say I'm 'searching the internet for social justice', I don't mean that the solution to a fair and just society is to be found at the click of a mouse...Oh, if only it were that easy.

By 'searching the internet for social justice', I'm referring to a new search engine called GoodSearch.com that donates half of its advertising revenue to nonprofit organizations every time you search the internet. Sound too good to be true? That's what I thought until I did some research and learned about the GoodSearch.com story.



GoodSearch is a Yahoo-based search engine that was started by JJ Ramberg and Ken Ramberg, a brother-sister duo who wanted to use their dot com experience for the public good.

Figuring that the search engine advertising industry rakes in over \$6 billion a year, they created the site to funnel a portion of that money, about 1 cent a search, to nonprofits. A penny doesn't seem like much, but when you consider how often people look up information on the internet, whether for work or for personal reasons, it adds up quickly. Users can designate an organization, or multiple organizations, that they'd like the proceeds to go to. To top it off, it doesn't cost anything to use – the money being donated comes from advertisers' fees, and users simply do what they normally do when searching the internet.

Log on today at www.goodsearch.com, and start clicking to start giving to CCEJ!



EJ In the News

New Report Shows Minorities Still Hurt by Environmental Injustice - Environmental injustice in minority communities is as much or more prevalent today than 20 years ago, according to a follow-up study to the landmark "Toxic Waste and Race in the United States" report that put the environmental justice movement on the map two decades ago. Both studies were commissioned by the United Church of Christ. The new study commemorates the 20th anniversary of the groundbreaking first study.

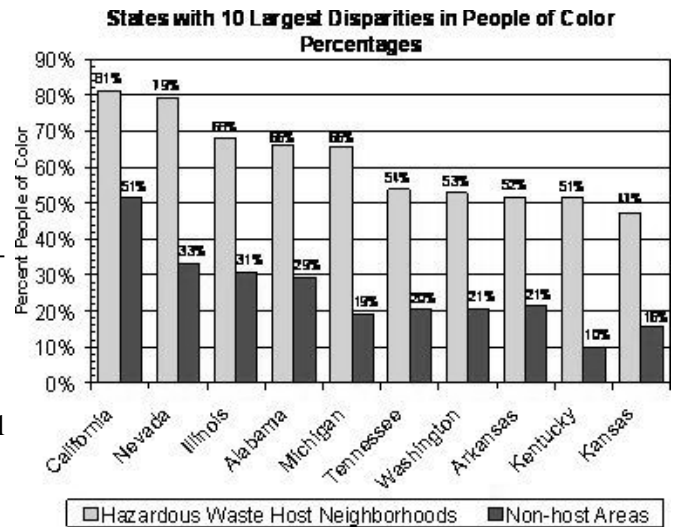
The executive summary of the 180-plus page report Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty 1987-2007, "again reflects a clear racial pattern where waste sites are located and the way the government responds or does not respond to contamination emergencies in people of color communities," said Carlos Correa, minister for environmental justice with the United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries.

The findings show that 20 years later, disproportionately large numbers of people of color still live in hazardous waste host communities, and that people of color are not equally protected by environmental laws. "People of color across the United States have learned the hard way that waiting for government agencies to respond to toxic contamination can be hazardous to their health and the health of their communities," said Robert Bullard, director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University. Bullard was the principal investigator for the study.

What does this mean for Seattle and Washington state?

According to the report, Washington State has a majority of people of color living near a hazardous waste facility at 53%, and it was among the top 10 states in terms of the magnitude of racial disparity in the location of such facilities (ranked 7, see chart). People of color are even more concentrated near facilities in Seattle.

EPA's Region 10, which includes Washington, has the largest population of Asian Americans living near the hazardous waste facilities. This underscores the need for a strong EJ office as well as increased funding for EJ in the Northwest. For access to the 180 page report, please contact CCEJ.



EJ Calendar of Events

Yesler Terrace Citizen's Review Committee - JUNE 27th, July 25th, August 22nd, September 26th 5-7pm at 917 E Yesler Way. The Yesler Terrace Citizen's Review Committee, a group of community stakeholders ranging from residents to organizations to government representatives, meet monthly to make recommendations for the redevelopment of Yesler Terrace. Your presence and voice are crucial at these meetings to ensure that Seattle Housing Authority remains accountable to the Yesler Terrace community. For more information, contact Kate Villarreal, Community Education Organizer, at (206) 720-0285 ex. 5.

U.S. Social Forum - JUNE 27 - JULY 1, at the Atlanta Civic Center, Central Park, the Peachtree Westin Hotel, and the Atlanta Downtown Marriott in Atlanta, GA. Plenary sessions include Gulf Coast Reconstruction in the Post-Katrina Era; War, Militarism and the Prison Industrial Complex; Indigenous Voices: From the Heart of Mother Earth; Immigrant and Migrant Rights in a Global Society; Liberating Gender and Sexuality: Integrating Gender and Sexual Justice Across Our Movements; Workers' Rights in the Global Economy. For more information, visit <http://www.ussocialforum.org>. Register at <http://www.ussf2007.org/en/register>

CCEJ Annual Conference - Saturday, AUGUST 25 TH 9:00am-6:00pm at South Seattle Community College. This year's theme is *Race, Power and the Environment: Liberating Our Communities from Toxins*. Keynote address by Dr. Joy Leary, author of Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome. Join us in our local movement to create safe, clean and healthy communities for all.

Bucket Brigade Conference - SEPTEMBER 8th at Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, GA. This unique event is your chance to get started with tools and trainings that WORK to help your community deal with pollution and find solutions! Keynote address by Robert Bullard, author of *Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty*. Registration Required. Space is limited! For more information: info@gcmonitor.org

The CCEJ Staff would like to extend some

**Big
Love**

To Our
Board

To Our
Friends

to our board and to our friends in the community. You have been working so hard during our leadership transition. From coordinating our hiring process and interviewing candidates, to both raising money and giving money, you have been doing it all. We appreciate you so much! Thank you for your energy and generosity.



Love Mel, Kate, Secret & Judith



CCEJ Launches the Toxic Beauty Project

By Mel Carnay, CCEJ Staff

We are proud to announce that we will be kicking off a new two-year campaign this summer called the Toxic Beauty Project. The Toxic Beauty Project is a collaborative project between CCEJ and the Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) that aims to improve human health and the environment in nail salons located in low income communities and communities of color. Many chemicals found in beauty products that are commonly used in salons are hazardous to human health, and nail salon technicians are exposed to them on a daily basis. In King County, as well as nationwide, the majority of salon workers and owners are Asian immigrant women, so exposure tends to be disproportionate. We hope to involve all individuals and groups in the process of promoting the use of safer practices and products, from consumer to business owner, salon employee to beauty industry. The project will include culturally appropriate one-on-one outreach with nail salons, education and outreach to consumers, a postcard campaign urging the beauty industry to provide safer products, and a community-based advisory committee to help guide the process. Stay tuned as the project gears up over the next few months. If you have any questions or comments regarding the Toxic Beauty Project, contact Mel Carnay at melcarnay@ccej.org or 206.720.0285 ex.4.



JOIN CCEJ MEMBERSHIP!

Mail to: CCEJ, 1620 18th Ave, Suite 10, Seattle, WA 98122 (206) 720-0285. Or go online at www.ccej.org

Here's my membership donation:

- \$40.00 standard membership
- \$5 - \$35 sliding scale membership
- \$60 organizational membership

I'd like to give an additional donation:

- \$25.00
- \$50.00
- \$100.00
- \$250 - \$500
- \$500 - \$750
- \$750 - \$1,000

Please make check payable to CCEJ

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