



# The CCEJournal

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The Official Newsletter of the  
Community Coalition for Environmental Justice  
www.ccej.org

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1620 18th Avenue Suite 10  
Seattle, WA 98122

## Speaking Truth to Power: Yesler Terrace Coalition Flexes Lobbying Muscle in Olympia

The Yesler Terrace Coalition (YTC) charged into action at the start of 2006 and lobbied for statewide legislation to stem the loss of low income housing in Washington and check the power of the Seattle Housing Authority. YTC partner John Fox, of the Seattle Displacement Coalition, drafted an amendment to Representative Mark Miloscia's Housing Bill 2649 that would achieve the goal of "no net loss on-site" that the Yesler Terrace Coalition has been demanding since 2004 and would go over the heads of SHA executives and Seattle City Council to put a state-wide measure with teeth into place.

The amendment would bar "housing authorities in cities of over 400,000 population" (which would apply only to Seattle Housing Authority) from tearing down any low income housing units anywhere without first replacing ALL of those units and at comparable rent. For SHA projects that are greater than 100 units in size, such as Yesler Terrace, 100 percent of any public housing units that SHA removes on-site would also have to be replaced on-site. It would prohibit SHA from using limited state housing dollars to fund redevelopment projects that result in a net loss of low income and public housing units and in the future the state would not pay for replacement housing units should SHA proceed with demolition of existing low income housing inventory.



*Yesler Terrace residents (from left) Theresa Higgins Brown, Vernon Robertson and Kristin O'Donnell and CCEJ staff Kate Villarreal and Yalonda Sinde meet with Representative Bob Hasegawa about the housing bill.*

From January 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, members of the Yesler Terrace Coalition went to Olympia and visited their representatives and legislators on the housing committee to ask for their co-sponsorship of this important amendment. Representatives and past YTC supporters Maralyn Chase and Bob Hasegawa both gave their unqualified support and agreed to co-sponsor. Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos heard our concerns but told us the *(continued on page 2)*

## Coming Soon: CCEJ's Fifth Annual Conference

On May 13<sup>th</sup> 2006 CCEJ will proudly host its Fifth Annual Conference, **Community Based Solutions for Environmental Health and Justice** at Seattle University's Piggott Auditorium from 9 am to 5 pm. This event highlights environmental justice issues in the Northwest and beyond and provides people with effective tools to create clean and healthy communities. This unique conference features the work of people of color and low-income people who lead environmental justice organizations around the country. Additionally, this event provides a space for indigenous people and people of color in the Northwest to network, strategize and educate the public about our struggles, accomplishments and strategies, helping us to build the environmental justice movement in our region.

This year's theme is **"We Are Still Standing: Our Movement is Strong"**. Our keynote address is **"After the Storm: the Environmental Justice Implications of Hurricane Katrina"** by Vernice Miller -Travis of the National Black *(continued on page 3)*

*From page 1*

deadline had passed for her co-sponsorship. We won the crucial support of housing committee representatives Tim Ormsby and Eric Pettigrew, but unfortunately not Larry Springer.

With co-sponsorship in place, the next step was to mobilize people to revisit Olympia the following week for the committee hearing. Again, a broad showing of YTC members made the trip to the capitol to show support for this amendment. Housing authority executives such as Tom Tierney and their professional lobbyists, as well as some nonprofit housing developers, also arrived at the hearing to voice their opposition. Strangely, representative Eric Pettigrew's name did not appear as a co-sponsor on the final amendment draft after he told us that he would back the legislation. Undiscouraged members of the YTC, including Lynn Gordon, John Fox, Yalonda Sindé and Kate Villarreal, gave rousing testimony outlining the necessity of this amendment to stop SHA from draining state coffers in order to fund their gentrification of poor neighborhoods.

The opposition made their case against the amendment, that it would leave them in a difficult financial situation and they wouldn't be able to meet their expenses without state dollars. Our advice to them: Stop tearing down low income housing and then you won't need to worry about the cost of replacing it.

The amendment failed to make it out of the committee this year but we realize that this process takes time and we plan to continue our educational efforts in order to have more support in Olympia in '07. Some short-term victories that emerged were heightened media coverage of the work of the Yesler Terrace Coalition including 2 stories that aired on national radio programs "Free Speech Radio News" and "Making Contact". Another major victory was the mobilization of dozens of Yesler Terrace Coalition members, including resident leaders, to take the important step of speaking truth to power.

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

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## **STAFF**

Yalonda Sindé,  
Executive Director  
yalondas@ccej.org

Kate Villarreal  
Community Organizer  
katev@ccej.org

Holly Unger  
Development Coordinator  
hollyu@ccej.org

Virginia Suruda  
Youth Organizer  
jetmail4@yahoo.com

Marisa del Rosario  
MLK VISTA/Volunteer Coordinator  
marisadel@earthlink.net

*If you would like to comment on or contribute to our newsletter, please contact Marisa del Rosario at: [marisadel@earthlink.net](mailto:marisadel@earthlink.net)*



## Kate Villarreal, CCEJ Community Organizer, Receives Tyree Scott “No Separate Peace” Award

A celebration in honor of black history month and the late civil rights leader and labor activist Tyree Scott was held at the Yesler Terrace Community Center in February.

The event was a special tribute to a man who dedicated his life to building the power of working people. Tyree was a local freedom fighter who was greatly loved and is deeply missed by many.

A major highlight of the event was the presentation of the No Separate Peace Award to our very own Kate Villarreal, CCEJ Organizer of the Yesler Terrace Coalition.

CCEJ is very proud of Kate. This is an honor well-deserved. Way to go, Kate!

### CCEJ Outreach Reaches Over 2,000 People with EJ Education

We actually haven't finished tallying the numbers yet! But so far, our records show that in 2005 CCEJ staff reached over 2,000 people in the Seattle area last year with environmental justice education. CCEJ receives requests from educators, students, policymakers, non-profits and community members to do environmental justice education, presentations, workshops and tours.

*(Conference from page 1)*

Environmental Justice Network.

Issues and skills-building workshops will include topics like Hurricane Katrina, cultural genocide, environmental health, activist art, lobbying and forming interracial alliances. Our speakers will represent a range of urban, rural and indigenous perspectives from across the country.

There are many ways you can help us make the Fifth Annual CCEJ Conference a success:

- Conference attendance is bolstered with the support of CCEJ members, supporters and ally organizations, so **please tell all of your friends, family and co-workers about our conference.**
- If you would like to contribute to the scholarship



*Kate (left) with her award, presented by Bev Sims, widow of Tyree Scott.*



*Youth from the YWCA Earth Service Corps participated in an environmental justice role playing exercise in February in an environmental justice workshop led by CCEJ's Yalonda Sindé .*

fund, which helps subsidize the cost of conference attendance for low-income community members, please send a donation to CCEJ.

- Volunteer at the conference! Contact Marisa at [marisadel@earthlink.net](mailto:marisadel@earthlink.net) or (206) 720-0285 if you'd like to help out on this important day and still be able to attend workshops.
- Come to the conference! Online registration is up at [www.ccej.org](http://www.ccej.org) and brochure with registration forms will be in the mail soon.

***We hope to see you on May 13<sup>th</sup>!***

## CCEJ Membership Update

By Holly Unger

Out of the Base-Building work with Western States Center, a conversation has begun at CCEJ about how we define our members. Currently a member is anyone who joins CCEJ and pays yearly membership dues. A member receives our newsletter, action alerts, event invites and email updates.

But we all know that members are more than financial supporters. Members are community folks affected by environmental and economic injustices, the people we focus on building leadership with and the people who lead our campaigns. Members are also people who aren't necessarily impacted by environmental and economic injustice; they can be white folks or middle-upper class folks.

To recognize that we have two types of members, we now call them what they are: "campaign members" and "ally members". Now we ask that when members join or make a contribution, they self-identify as one of these types of members. This way we can keep accurate records as to who makes up our membership; and we can send targeted mailings to our two types of members. Below is a description of the member types and their commitments.

### *Campaign member*

A campaign member is affected by environmental and/or economic injustice. Specifically, these members are people of color and/or low-income. In Seattle, these individuals live mostly in South Seattle, but also in the Central Area. In the spirit of grassroots organizing, these members are the focus of our leadership development in the community and lead our campaigns.

### *Ally member*

An ally member is not affected directly by environmental and/or economic injustice. Specifically, these members are white and/or middle-upper income.

Ally and campaign members:

- agree to uphold CCEJ's mission and values.
- make a financial commitment, \$1-\$40 a year, sliding scale—a financial contribution that is meaningful for that individual.
- receive our newsletter, action alerts, special invites and email updates.

A message to our current CCEJ members: next time you send in a membership donation with a remit envelope, please self-identify as a campaign or ally member. Thank you!

~

## CCEJ Wish List

Here are some items that we would greatly appreciate. Contact Holly at (206) 720-0285 if you'd like to give a wish list gift.

### Environmental Justice Education & Outreach

- Laptop PC computer
- PC-compatible digital projector
- Digital camera
- Digital camcorder
- Most current Adobe Photoshop software
- Calculators
- Gift certificates to Office Depot, Kinko's

### Environmental Justice Youth Advocates

- Snacks for the youth at their after school meetings – chips, cookies, juice, soda, etc.

### Yesler Terrace Coalition

- Simultaneous interpreting equipment

### Fundraising Efforts

- Gift certificates to Trader Joe's and other grocery stores



*Dance performance from past Courageous Sisters event.*

**Thank you to the following businesses and individuals! They supported Courageous Sisters Unite, an annual celebration of International Women's Day that honors local women of color. CCEJ co-sponsors this event each year, along with many other wonderful organizations. These businesses and individuals donated sample self-care and beauty products and gift certificates so that we could have gift bags and door prizes for the women who participated in the celebration.**

Bliss Soaps	Pharmaca
Halo	Salon Ciba
Josie Ives, LMP	Trade Secret
Kathryn Lowe, LMP	Vain

## Volunteer Update

By Marisa del Rosario

**Thanks to all of CCEJ's volunteers who have helped out over the last few months!**

Holly would like a special thank you to go out to the development team members, who are doing a fantastic job with fundraising: Alka Arora, Jenni Conrad, Chris Hartson, Dean Jackson, Jake Parkinson and Joyce Tseng. Staff members are also doing great work with fundraising. Thanks, everyone!

One of CCEJ's great volunteers, Liz Harnmeijer, has left us to volunteer in India for five months. She will be missed! Three great new volunteers have joined us, Angela Ortez, Melissa Carnay and Amy Tam. They are all service learning students from Seattle University and/or University of Washington.



*Liz Harnmeijer, our wonderful volunteer who is now living in India.*

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Please contact Marisa at [marisadel@earthlink.net](mailto:marisadel@earthlink.net) or (206) 720-0285 if you'd like to come to one of these events or get more information.

- Tuesday, April 25th, 2006, 5:30-7pm: Volunteer Meeting. Join us to be more involved with our conference organizing. Pizza included!
- Tuesday, May 9th, 2006, 5:30-7:30pm: Volunteer Meeting: Join us to work on advance training for our conference. Pizza included!
- Sat. May 13<sup>th</sup> 2006 9 am - 5 pm: Fifth Annual CCEJ Conference, Community-Based Solutions for Environmental Health & Justice. We need your help to make it a success. Assist with outreach and preparation before the conference, and various volunteer jobs the day of the conference. Contact Marisa for more info.

~



*Melissa Carnay helps out in the office. She's one of our great service learning volunteers from Seattle University.*

### **National EJ Toxic Tour Coming to the Northwest**

Yalonda Sindé

Environmental justice and environmental health groups from across the country are planning a national toxic tour Sunday September 24th, to Sunday, October, 1st, 2006. CCEJ is the hosting organization for the Seattle tour. The goal is to tour communities directly impacted by industrial contamination to promote increased national action on these issues.

The tour is designed to put elected officials and industries on notice that the national countdown to reform begins now!

Simultaneous bus routes in the Northeast, South and West Coast will kick off on September 24th. Regional Organizers will work with groups in their region to organize details of the tour, actions and media events at each stop. Stops are chosen based on interest and leadership among groups who step to the plate to plan the national tour.

The Fenceline Action Workgroup is serving as fiscal agent for the tour. The following organizations have been the core planning group for the effort with regional representatives such as CCEJ and many other groups participating in planning actions and tour bus routes:

Martha Arguello, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles  
Elizabeth Crowe, Chemical Weapons Working Group  
Monique Harden and Nathalie Walker, Advocates for Environmental Human Rights - New Orleans  
Mandy Hawes, Worksafe! & Cal-COSH  
Hilton Kelley, Community In-Power Development Association - Port Arthur, TX  
Ralph Montefusco, Organizer, Alliance@IBM / CWA Local 1701  
Judy Robinson, Environmental Health Fund  
Bobbi Chase Wilding, Citizens' Environmental Coalition, New York  
Virginia Giordano, National Director, Tour '06

Stay tuned for more info from CCEJ. If you'd like to be involved in the Seattle Planning Committee for the national tour, please call Yalonda at 206-720-0285.

### **EPA Sued Over New Human Pesticide Testing Rule**

From Environmental News Service

San Francisco, California, February 27, 2006 (ENS) – A new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rule will turn more Americans into “lab rats for industry pesticide tests” according to lawsuits filed Thursday by a coalition of health and environmental advocates, farm workers and doctors.

The lawsuits were filed simultaneously in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York City and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The groups filing lawsuits include Pesticide Action network North America, Pineros y Camesinos Unidos del Noroeste (Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United), San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility, and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). They are represented by attorneys with Earthjustice and NRDC.

The groups contend that the agency's human testing rule violates a law passed by Congress in 2005 mandating strict ethical and scientific protections for pesticide testing on humans.

### **House Clears Bill to Ensure Tribal Representation on State Board of Health**

From American Indian Health Commission for WA State

On March 2, the House passed legislation to guarantee tribal representation on the State Board of Health, clearing its way for signature into law. The bill, SB 6196, passed by a party-line vote of 56 to 42.

Under current law, the WA State Board of Health has nine members appointed by the Governor. SB 6196, would require that one of the four people experienced in matters of health and sanitation be a “health official from a federally recognized tribe.” It ensures that tribes have equal representation like other governmental jurisdictions in the state that carry out public health responsibilities.

SB 6196 will return to the senate for final passage because of a technical amendment that was added by the House Health Committee. It will then move to the Governor for signature into law. Contact [aihc@aihc-wa.org](mailto:aihc@aihc-wa.org) or see [www.aich-wa.org](http://www.aich-wa.org) for more information.

## So what's up with this plan to make downtown Seattle taller and denser?

By Elana Dix

Rezoning downtown will change Seattle for decades. Developers will benefit from the allowance to build taller and denser, especially in this high-growth region. The community will be greatly impacted in the form of displacement of affordable housing and creation of service-sector jobs that don't pay a living wage, among other things. It is only fair and prudent that developers help offset the costs of new development.

The Seattle Alliance for Good Jobs and Housing for Everyone (SAGE) and allies, like CCEJ, have been raising awareness about the fact that these zoning changes will disproportionately affect low- and moderate-income people. Workers in the service sectors, such as hotel and restaurant workers, janitors, security officers, are oftentimes people of color and immigrants.

SAGE has developed a set of principles for responsible downtown development. These include the concepts of preservation and creation of more low-income housing, living wage jobs, and an improved transportation system, especially for low-wage workers who are forced to commute from

far-reaching suburbs due to lack of affordable housing in the city and the wages needed to

pay for housing. In addition, the principles call for more parks and open space for all people to enjoy; stores, community centers, green streets, and neighborhood amenities for families; identifying a way to meet increased human service needs; and preserving historic buildings, in which much of our affordable housing is located.

The rezoning of downtown is important because it gets at who we want to be as a city. We must promote a vision for downtown density that benefits Seattleites of all incomes. Extensive zoning changes, such as those that will happen in the new Downtown Height & Density Plan, should genuinely benefit the community at all income levels, and prevent further poverty and homelessness, truly reduce sprawl, and make downtown livable and walkable for all.

**“The rezoning of downtown is important because it gets at who we want to be as a city. We must promote a vision for downtown density that benefits Seattleites of all incomes.”**

*Elana Dix is the lead organizer with the Seattle Alliance for Good Jobs and Housing for Everyone. (SAGE). Visit SAGE's website at: [www.seattlegoodjobs.org](http://www.seattlegoodjobs.org)*



## Big Win for Clean Fuel in Washington State

Legislators passed a major bill this legislative session that will establish biodiesel and ethanol standards and incentives for in-state fuel crops and production facilities. Score it as a major victory for energy security, farming communities, good jobs, and environmental protection.

The renewable fuel standards will begin to take effect in 2008, after an advisory group helps the Department of Agriculture develop rules for implementation. Industry experts anticipate that the new fuel standards, one of the first in the nation, will attract substantial investment in growing biofuel feedstocks and producing the fuel.

Washington's environmental community made this bill one of four priorities for the session. Agricultural interests are becoming increasingly focused on biofuels and renewable electricity as opportunities to diversify and strengthen Washington's farm economy. For more info: [info@climatesolutions.org](mailto:info@climatesolutions.org) and [www.climatesolutions.org](http://www.climatesolutions.org)

**EJ Calendar of Events**  
**May 2006**

**Enviro Expo Conference:** May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> in Boston, MA. For more info visit <http://www.enviroexpo.com>.

**Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies 2006 Luncheon – Making Connections for Health:** May 10<sup>th</sup> Noon-1:30 pm, Westin Hotel, Seattle. For more info visit <http://www.hmhbw.org>.

**Collaborative on Health & the Environment Washington Quarterly Meeting:** May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2:30-4:30 pm, Seattle. For more info visit <http://washington.chenw.org>.

**Fifth Annual CCEJ Conference: Community-Based Solutions for Environmental Health & Justice:** May 13<sup>th</sup> 9 am–5 pm, Seattle University. For more info & online registration begining in early April, visit <http://www.ccej.org>.

Community Coalition for  
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 1620 18th Ave Suite 10  
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