



**Community Coalition for Social Justice**  
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**UPDATE: 1 JANUARY 2018**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Community Coalition for Social Justice is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting the principles of social, environmental, and economic justice and respect for all persons. We oppose discrimination and hate-motivated violence in Morgantown and surrounding communities.

**STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP:** Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 9th, at 6:30 p.m.** in the meeting room at **Panera's on Patteson Drive**. We have now moved our meetings back to this location. *Note that we will not meet if Monongalia County schools are closed for the day or close early due to inclement weather.*

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at attfield@comcast.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. Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu.

**PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR DUES** - \$10 for individuals and \$25 for organizations – to CCSJ, PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160. You can join or donate by credit card via PayPal on our web site.

**MLK DAY 2018 IS JANUARY 15TH AT THE METROPOLITAN THEATRE, 369 HIGH STREET, MORGANTOWN AT 2:00 P.M.:** 2018 marks the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. King's death. Because we anticipate that many anniversary events will focus on his career and adult life, our theme is "Growing Up Martin" to focus on his boyhood in the segregated South.

Mike Attfield and friends will provide music in the lobby before the event. Mayor Bill Kawecki will welcome us. The Flying Colors, Morgantown Community Orchestra, Mylan Park Elementary School Choir, and Morgantown Children's Choir will perform, and the winners of the NAACP-Greater St. Paul AME Church Multimedia Essay Contest will participate. Janis-Rozena Peri will sing one of Dr. King's favorite songs, "If I Can Help Someone," and Jeremy Thomas will read a story about Dr. King as a boy. Look for posters by art students from St. Francis Central Catholic School in downtown businesses and our banner across High Street to promote the event.

CCSJ will also have social justice-themed bumper stickers and buttons for sale. The League of Women Voters and Morgantown Human Rights Commission will have information tables in the lobby, and the League will have information available about the new West Virginia voter i.d. law that will then be in effect.

We again very much appreciate the financial support from the City of Morgantown and Rachel Wood of Virtus Wealth Solutions for this event, and the assistance of Barb Watkins of Main Street Morgantown in publicizing the event.



We will again be collecting donations for the Scott's Run Settlement House Backpack Feeding Program that provides food for area school children over the weekend. According to the Scott's Run settlement House web site, this program started in 2011 at Mylan Park Elementary with 212 children and now serves 839 children at nine schools: Brookhaven, Cheat Lake, Mason-Dixon, Mountainview, Mylan Park, North, and Suncrest Elementary Schools, South Middle School, and University High School. Sample foods needed are individual servings of graham crackers, animal crackers, cereal boxes, fruit snacks, Jell-O, ravioli soup, and applesauce. You can find a link to a complete list and more information at [srsh-org.doodlekit.com/home/backpack\\_snack\\_program](http://srsh-org.doodlekit.com/home/backpack_snack_program).



**CCSJ HONORED BY MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:** The Morgantown Human Rights Commission presented us with a beautiful plaque as the recipient of its 2017 organizational Human Rights Day Award. Austin Porter accepted the award for us at the meeting of the Morgantown City Council on Tuesday, December 19th, and spoke about our work at the reception at the Aull Center thereafter. Charlene Marshall received the individual award, and Rabbi Joe Hample spoke at the reception.

Since CCSJ members Emily Spieler and Mike Sharley wrote the first ordinance to establish a Human Rights Commission, we shared our good news with Emily and Greg Wagner in Boston. Their responses were "That is so very cool! Congratulations to all!" from Emily and "Outstanding!!! Wonderful to get the recognition. And perhaps attract others to the group" from Greg.



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!** Just look for "Community Coalition for Social Justice" under "Groups" and become our friend. Thanks to Mike Sharley for being our group "leader."

## LOCAL NEWS



**MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:** The next regular meeting will be Thursday, January 18th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Safety Building Conference Room on Spruce Street. You can get copies of the agendas and minutes for the commission meetings at [www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/).

You can find a calendar of annual human rights observances at [www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/Annual-HR-Observances.pdf](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/Annual-HR-Observances.pdf).

**Here are the events for January:**

**January 15** Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Established in 1983 and observed for the first time on January 20, 1986. Also known as King Service Day – Federal legislation signed in 1994 challenged Americans to transform the King holiday into a day of citizen action and volunteer service.

**January 18** World Religion Day – Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

**January 27** Holocaust Memorial Day - Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945. The United Nations urges all its member states to honor Nazi era victims and to develop education programs to help prevent future genocides.



**GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION MEETING JANUARY 14TH:** The next meeting will be Sunday, January 14th at 3:00 p.m. at the Tree of Life Synagogue, 242 S. High Street, Morgantown. Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/](http://www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/).

**UU FELLOWSHIP CIVICS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM SERIES:** All films will be on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 429 Warrick Street, Morgantown. Here is the schedule with details about the January films:

**January 11:** "Happy," (Belic, 2011). According to the film's website ([thehappymovie.com/film](http://thehappymovie.com/film)), "Yes, This is a Movie About Happiness. Does money make you HAPPY? Kids and family? Your work? Do you live in a world that values and promotes happiness and well-being? Are we in the midst of a happiness revolution?"

"Roko Belic, director of the Academy Award® nominated 'Genghis Blues' now brings us HAPPY, a film that sets out to answer these questions and more. Taking us from the bayous of Louisiana to the deserts of Namibia, from the beaches of Brazil to the villages of Okinawa, HAPPY explores the secrets behind our most valued emotion."

**January 25:** "The Look of Silence," (Oppenheimer, 2015). According to this film's website ([thelookofsilence.com](http://thelookofsilence.com)), "THE LOOK OF SILENCE IS JOSHUA OPPENHEIMER'S POWERFUL COMPANION PIECE TO THE OSCAR®-NOMINATED THE ACT OF KILLING."

"Through Oppenheimer's footage of perpetrators of the 1965 Indonesian genocide, a family of survivors discovers how their son was murdered, as well as the identities of the killers. The documentary focuses on the youngest son, an optometrist named Adi, who decides to break the suffocating spell of submission and terror by doing something unimaginable in a society where the murderers remain in power: he confronts the men who killed his brother and, while testing their eyesight, asks them to accept responsibility for their actions. This unprecedented film initiates and bears witness to the collapse of fifty years of silence."

**February 8:** "Fed Up," (Soechtig, 2014)

**February 22:** "Minimalism: A Documentary About Important Things," (D'Avella, 2016)

**March 8:** "Living on One Dollar," (Temple, Ingrasci, Leonard, 2012)

**March 22:** "Miss Representation," (Neusome Siebel, 2011)

**April 12:** "Awake: A Dream From Standing Rock," (Fox, Spione, Dewey, 2017)

**April 26:** "Life Itself," (James, 2014)

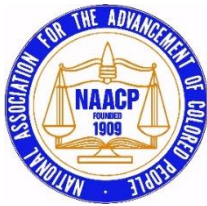
**May 10:** "The Square," (Noujaim, 2017)

**May 24:** "Sustainable," (Weschler, 2016)

For more information, call 304-292-8842.



**MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER MEETING IS JANUARY 9TH:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 9th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Monongalia Friends Meeting House, 648 E. Brockway Avenue, Morgantown. Learn about this group's activities through its Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/groups/375050676186301/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/375050676186301/).



**NAACP NEXT MEETING JANUARY 16TH:** The Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP meets every third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Red Cross offices, 1299 Pineview Drive, Suite 300, Morgantown.

All are cordially invited to a **MARTIN LUTHER KING PROGRAM ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH**, at Greater St. Paul AME Church on 61 Beechurst Ave., Morgantown, at 3:00 p.m. The Morgantown/Kingwood NAACP proudly joins its partner Greater St. Paul AME Church in celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his legacy. As part of this recognition, students at elementary, middle, and high school levels have had the opportunity to participate in a writing competition. There will be first and second place winners at each level. Come and meet the winners.

**The theme for 2018 is "Discovering the Rich History of African-Americans in the Morgantown, WV Community."**

**The speaker will be Eric Lewis Williams, PhD.** Dr. Williams holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and Sociology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from the McCormick Theological Seminary, the Master of Divinity degree from Duke University and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Religious Studies from the University of Edinburgh in the United Kingdom.

Williams currently serves as Curator of Religion for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, D.C. Focusing primarily on family resemblances between New World African and New African diasporan religious traditions, Williams's current research examines the meaning of religion within African American history and culture, and the role and influences of African religions in the Atlantic world. His other research and teaching interests include: American religious history; religion and material culture; African Christianity; Christian theology; and Pentecostal studies.

If you have further question, or concerns, please contact Debbie Robinson, president of the Morgantown/Kingwood NAACP Branch, at [naacp.morgantown3241@gmail.com](mailto:naacp.morgantown3241@gmail.com).

**WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., BREAKFAST:** All are invited to the 28th annual breakfast on January 15th at 8:00 a.m. at the WVU Mountainlair. Please RSVP by January 10th to 304-293-7029. For more information, please call 304-293-7029 or go to [www.cbc.wvu.edu](http://www.cbc.wvu.edu). You can contribute to the MLK Jr. Scholarship Fund by mailing a check payable to the WVU Foundation, Inc, at PO Box 1650, Morgantown, WV, 26505. Please designate the contribution for this fund.

### STATE-WIDE EVENTS



**Kids and Families Day 2018 is January 23rd:** Our Children, Our Future is sponsoring this event from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the West Virginia State Capitol, Capitol Complex, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, in Charleston. Lunch is on your own.

“Join us for our 5th Annual Kids and Families Day at the Capitol. Be part of one of the largest legislative events as we educate and advocate for issues concerning working families and children in West Virginia. Kids and Families Day 2018 will showcase Our Children, Our Future Campaign partners and friends in exhibits, actions/advocacy events with local legislators, and educational opportunities for everyone! A more complete schedule of events will be available closer to the date.

“We are asking all partner organizations to please pay a \$30 table registration for the day. Please submit your donation here.

“Need help bringing a group to the Capitol? Contact Jennifer Wells at [jennifer@ourfuturewv.org](mailto:jennifer@ourfuturewv.org) about a bus scholarship or assistance.

“Be a SPONSOR! Help working families and youth attend this important day. Please contact Chris Kimes at [chris@ourfuturewv.org](mailto:chris@ourfuturewv.org) for more details.

If you have any questions/concerns about Kids and Families Day please contact Chris Kimes at [chris@ourfuturewv.org](mailto:chris@ourfuturewv.org) or call (304) 561-7728 (for quick response, please text). Registration and more information is available at [actionnetwork.org/events/kids-and-families-day-2018?source=facebook](http://actionnetwork.org/events/kids-and-families-day-2018?source=facebook).



The next meeting of the **Kanawha Valley NOW** chapter is a potluck dinner on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. at the WFREE offices. Bettijane Burger is leading this effort.

### RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN JANUARY 2018

#### FROM PETER CLARK

The Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony, in which old fires are extinguished and new fires are lit, and the Hopi Holy Cycle, in which the changing of the seasons and the nature of the Hopi sacred universe are celebrated, begin in January and February, but the dates of observance vary by tribe. It is also the season of K’aliyee, the time of the north wind that blows off glaciers and icecaps that linger from the last ice age.

Monday, January 1 New Year’s Day

· Temple Day – Buddhism

North American Buddhists attend special services in temples on this day.

· Feast of Mary, Mother of God; and the Naming of Jesus Christ – Christianity

Some Christians celebrate this day in honor of Jesus' mother; others celebrate this day (eight days after Jesus' birth) as the day when Jesus was presented at the Temple and officially named by his parents.

· Gantan-sai (O-shōgatsu) – Shintō

This Japanese celebration of the New Year includes prayers for the renewal of hearts, good health and prosperity. The festival lasts for a week, during which time people visit one another's homes and offer gifts of good wishes for the coming year.

Tuesday, January 2

· Mahāyāna New Year – Buddhism

This celebration falls on the first full moon day in January for Buddhists who practice in the Mahāyāna (Great Vehicle) stream. By contrast, in Theravadin countries (Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and Laos) the new year is celebrated in April, while Tibetan Buddhists generally celebrate it in March.

· Birthday of Amitābha Buddha – Buddhism

Marking the birth of the bodhisattva Dharmakāra who resolved to attain enlightenment as a buddha and vowed to create a Pure Land. He became the buddha Amitābha ("infinite light"), and any sentient being who desires to be born into that land is guaranteed rebirth there through his vow, and from there she/he/it will unfailingly reach Nirvana. This belief forms the foundation of Pure Land Buddhism, which is practiced by many Buddhists in Japan, China, and other East Asian countries.

Thursday, January 4

· Ghambar Maidyarem ends – Zoroastrianism

A celebration for the creation of animals, and a time for the equitable sharing of food with all.

Friday, January 5

· Birthday of Gurū Gobind Singh Ji – Sikhism

A celebration in honor of the tenth and final Sikh master [1666 – 1708 C.E.], who created the Brotherhood of the Pure (Khalsa) and who declared the scriptures (Adi Granth) to be the gurū for all Sikhs from that time onward. This date is used by adherents of the Nanakshahi tradition.

Saturday, January 6

- Epiphany – Christianity (Western and some Eastern churches)

Marking the traditional date of the visitation of the Magi to meet the infant Jesus and the end of the twelve days of Christmas, also known as Día de los Reyes (Day of the Kings). In Armenian Christian churches, this date is celebrated as the Feast of the Nativity. Most Western churches celebrate this feast as Epiphany, which comes from the Latin word meaning “manifestation,” and will mark it on Sunday, January 7th; in Ethiopian Orthodox churches it is known as Timkat and is celebrated on January 19th.

- Feast of the Theophany – Christianity (some Eastern churches)

In some Eastern churches, this feast is associated with the baptism of Jesus by John and Jesus’ first recorded miracle in the Gospels, where he changed water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. This celebration begins at sundown on the previous day. In Eastern churches using the Julian calendar, this feast occurs on January 19th.

Sunday, January 7

- Christmas – Christianity (some Eastern churches)

The celebration of Jesus’ birth begins at sundown on this day, according to the Julian calendar used in some Orthodox churches.

- Swami Vivekananda Jayanti – Hinduism

A celebration of the birth of Swami Vivekananda, who introduced Hinduism to North America at the World’s Parliament of Religions, held in 1893 in Chicago during the World’s Fair.

Monday, January 8

- Seijin-no-hi – Shintō

Coming-of-Age Day, a Japanese national holiday in which families travel to shrines and announce to the gods that their children have reached adulthood. Prayers are offered for the children’s wellbeing and lifelong health.

Wednesday, January 10

- Memorial of Línjì Yìxuán – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death in 866 C.E. of the Chinese Buddhist teacher who founded what is often known as the Rinzai sect of Zen Buddhism.

Saturday, January 13

- Maghi – Sikhism

Commemorating a battle in which forty Sikhs (the Forty Liberated Ones or Immortal Ones), led by a woman named Maathaa Bhaag Kaur, sacrificed themselves for their gurū.

Sunday, January 14

· Makar Sankranti – Hinduism

A festival marking the change from decrease to increase of the sun.

Monday, January 15

· Martin Luther King, Jr., Day – USA national holiday

A day remembering the life and legacy of the American civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Tuesday, January 16

· Memorial of Shinran Shonin – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death in 1263 C.E. of the founder of the Jōdo Shinshū (True Pure Land) school of Mahāyāna Buddhism in Japan.

Thursday, January 18

· Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins – Christianity

Friday, January 19

· Sultán – Bahá'í

The first day of Sultán (Sovereignty), the seventeenth month of the Bahá'í year.

Sunday, January 21

· World Religion Day – Bahá'í

A celebration of the teachings of unity found in all religious traditions. The observance begins at sundown.

Monday, January 22

· Vasanta Panchami – Hinduism

A North Indian celebration associated with Saraswati, the goddess of learning, and with Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth.



Wednesday, January 24

· Jashne Sadeh – Zoroastrianism

A celebration of the discovery of fire by King Hashang of the Peshdadian dynasty; it is a festival in which a large bonfire is built as an act of defiance to drive back the winter.

Thursday, January 25

· Memorial of Hōnen Shonin – Buddhism

Anniversary of the death in 1212 C.E. of the founder of the Jōdo Shū (Pure Land) school of Mahāyāna Buddhism in Japan.

Sunday, January 28

· Triodion begins – Christianity (Eastern churches)

This day marks the beginning of the ten weeks preceding Holy Pascha (Easter). The term Triodion refers to the book containing the liturgies for the worship services during this time period.

Tuesday, January 30

· Tu B'Shevat – Judaism

A joyous celebration of the coming spring, including the planting of trees and the conservation of fruits native to Israel, as well as special meals where Jews eat the seven fruits of the land (wheat and barley; grapes; figs; pomegranates; olives; and honey). The festival begins at sundown.

Wednesday, January 31

· Birth of Gurū Har Rai – Sikhism

A celebration of the birth of the seventh of the Sikh gurūs [1630 – 1661 C.E.], according to the Nanakshahi calendar.

If you want more information about any of these holy days, please contact UCSF Health Spiritual Care Services at 415-353-1941 (Rev. Dr. Peter Yuichi Clark).

Our thanks to the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago, the Multifaith Action Society of British Columbia (Canada), BBC's Religion Website, Peel Schools District Board (Mississauga, Ontario, Canada), the Arizona State University Provost's Office, the NCCJ of the Piedmont Triad, the Anti-Defamation League, Project Interfaith (Omaha, NE), the University of Victoria Faculty of Law (British Columbia, Canada), and [www.interfaithcalendar.org](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org).

To subscribe to this calendar and sync it with your Google, Outlook, or iCal calendars, visit <http://ucsfspiritcare.org> and select the "Resources" menu.