



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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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, April 10th, at 6:30 p.m.** at **Panera's on Patteson Drive**. We will try to reserve the meeting room, but Panera has changed its policy. If it is really nice, we might be outside on the patio. *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 2019 PLANS STARTING: We have reserved the Metropolitan Theatre for a MLK Day 2019 event on January 21 and submitted our application to the City of Morgantown for funding to support this event. Please let us know if you have ideas for a theme or participants.



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, April 19th, 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/.

There are currently three vacancies on this commission, two for terms ending June 30, 2018, and one for a term ending June 30, 2019. For information on applying, go to <http://www.morgantownwv.gov/210/Volunteer-Opportunities>.

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

Here are the events for April:

National Child Abuse Prevention Month – A time to emphasize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month - A month to promote awareness of sexual assault, harassment, or other abuse to increase prevention efforts to protect all people of all ages.

April 1 - Youth Homelessness Matters Day – Part of a campaign to create brighter futures for young people who have faced homelessness and to show them they have the power and opportunity to become whatever they put their minds to.

April 7- World Health Day – Calls for an awareness that, without nurture and protection of health, persons are vulnerable to economic and social hardship and unable to fully utilize or engage in human rights.

April 16- Holocaust Remembrance Day – Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising – Seeks to commemorate the Holocaust by remembering and honoring the victims of the Holocaust, which include six million Jews, thousands of Russian gypsies, homosexuals, persons with disabilities, and others.

The Human Rights Commission partners with the WVU Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to sponsor a series of human rights films at WVU. The final film for the spring semester will be shown **April 10 and is “The 13th.”** Filmmaker Ava DuVernay explores the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with African-Americans. It will be shown in the Shenandoah Room of the WVU Mountainlair from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. This room is on the first floor of the Mountainlair between the Vandalia Lounge and the Gluck Theatre. It is free and open to the public.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION MEETING APRIL 8TH: The next meeting will be Sunday, April 8th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Islamic Center, 434 Harding Avenue, Morgantown. Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/.

The agenda includes a potential discussion of sanctuary cities, outreach to other local faith communities, including those outside the Abrahamic fold, and plans for an October event.

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 February films:

April 12: "Awake: A Dream From Standing Rock" (Fox, Spione, Dewey, 2017). If you missed this powerful film at WVU in March, you can see it now. "The film tells the dramatic story of the historic #NODAPL native-led peaceful resistance at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota, which captured the world's attention as one of the biggest stories of 2016. Tens of thousands of activists traveled to North Dakota from all over the world to take a stand alongside the "water protectors"-- activists opposing construction of the 3.7 billion-dollar Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). The pipeline is proposed to transport fracked oil from North Dakota's Bakken oil fields directly underneath the Missouri River on sovereign Lakota land, the only water source for the Standing Rock reservation and the drinking water source for 17 million Americans downstream."

April 26: "Life Itself" (James, 2014) "'Life Itself' recounts the surprising and entertaining life of world-renowned film critic and social commentator Roger Ebert - a story that's by turns personal, wistful, funny, painful, and transcendent. The film explores the impact and legacy of Roger Ebert's life: from his Pulitzer Prize-winning film criticism and his nearly quarter-century run with Gene Siskel on their review show, to becoming one of the country's most influential cultural voices, and finally to Roger's inspiring battles with cancer and the resulting physical disability - how he literally and symbolically put a new face on the disease and continued to be a cultural force despite it."

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

May 24: "Sustainable" (Weschler, 2016)

For more information, call 304-292-8842.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER MEETING IS APRIL 10TH: The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 10th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Monongalia Friends Meeting House, 648 E. Brockway Avenue, Morgantown. Ralph Baxter, Democrat candidate for the US Senate, is scheduled to attend. Learn about this group's activities through its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/375050676186301/.

The NOW Chapter is also advertising "**SPEAK EASY: TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE**" on Tuesday, April 17th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Shack Neighborhood House, 537 Blue

Horizon Drive in Pursglove. This is part of a series about “how to talk honestly with children about complex topics.”



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA: There will be a **candidate forum** on Thursday, April 12th, at 6:00 p.m. in WVU’s White Hall, Room G-09, on the downtown campus. This is an excellent opportunity to meet candidates who will be on the ballot for the May 8th primary election.



NAACP NEXT MEETING APRIL 17TH: The Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP meets every third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Pines Country Club on Point Marion Road, Morgantown.



WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM PRESENTS “IMAGINATION, MEMORY, AND ENGAGEMENT: EXPRESSING INDIGENOUS GEOGRAPHIES WITH CARTOGRAPHIC LANGUAGE” ON APRIL 6TH: Dr. Margaret Pearce (Citizen Potawatomi Nation) is the 2018 Visiting Scholar for the Native American Studies Program of the Eberly College of Arts & Sciences. The program will be held from noon to 1:00 p.m. in Room 130, Colson Hall, on the downtown campus. Light refreshments will be served. This program is

co-sponsored by the Carolyn Reyer Visiting Lectureship in Native American Studies and the WVU Department of Geology & Geography

Dr. Margaret Pearce is a cartographer based in Rockland, Maine. In addition to her own imprints, her clients have included the Canadian-American Center of the University of Maine, the National Museum of the American Indian-NY, and Penobscot Cultural & Historic Preservation Department of Penobscot Nation. She has 18 years of experience as a geography faculty member, most recently as associate professor of geography at the University of Kansas. She is an enrolled member of Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Dr. Pearce will introduce cartography, the study and practice of making maps, as a form of language. She’ll explore some of the structural details of that language and demonstrate the way that altering those details creates possibilities for connection with the reader and other collaborators. “I’ll show how I struggle with those possibilities to express indigenous geographies. Each map brings new lessons to the surface regarding imagination, memory, and engagement.”

WVU WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES EVENTS FOR APRIL:

April 2: *Fireside Chat*, WGST Graduate Student Panel, 5:00 p.m., Colson Hall, Room 130

April 12: *Honors & Awards Ceremony*, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Mountaineer Room, Mountainlair

April 18: Mohindar Singh Seehra Lecture: *Leading an "Integrated" Life: Relational and Reflective Communication Practices*, presented by Dr. Erica Kirby, Creighton University, 4:00 p.m., Shenandoah Room, Mountainlair

April 19: Faculty lunch with Erika Kirby, 11:30 a.m., LGBTQ Center, WVU Hodges Hall

April 22: *The 5th Annual Lavender Graduation*, 3:00 p.m., Mountainlair Ballrooms

April 24: Women's & Gender Studies Fair, 3:00-6:00 p.m., Mountainlair Ballrooms

WVU LGBTQ+ CENTER EVENTS: Every Friday there is a Steven Universe Breakfast from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and RuPaul's Drag Race Screening from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Center is also sponsoring Genderwhat?! on April 4th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. All are at the LGBTQ+ Center (Hodges G6).

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE & RESEARCH APRIL EVENTS: The Center for Black Culture & Research is hosting its Solidarity Ball at 7:00 p.m. on April 5th at the WVU Alumni Center. The Paul Robeson Mahalia Jackson Gospel Choir Spring Concert will be April 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the WVU Gluck Theater of the Mountainlair. Both events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Center at 304-293-7029.

MOMS DEMAND ACTION FORMING IN MORGANTOWN: There will be an informational meeting to form the newest chapter of Moms Demand Action-West Virginia on Tuesday, April 24th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Morgantown Brewing Company. Come at 5:00 p.m., if you wish, "to chat and to grab a drink, snack, or even dinner." This is a chance "to learn more about the goals and mission of Moms Demand Action, recent gun legislation in west Virginia, and how to get involved in a growing movement for common sense gun legislation in West Virginia and nationally." For more information and to be added to the mailing list, please contact Kathie Reilly at k.reilly0001@gmail.com or Susie Donaldson at Susie.donaldson@outlook.com.

STATE-WIDE EVENTS



Information about the **Kanawha Valley NOW** chapter is available at www.facebook.com/Kanawha-Valley-Chapter-National-Organization-For-Women-1976287046030339/.

West Virginia NOW has a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNOW/.

NEW WEST VIRGINIA VOTER I.D. LAW NOW IN EFFECT: Please note that, when you go to vote, you will now need to provide a form of i.d. Acceptable forms are:

These are the acceptable forms of non-photo identification:

- Voter registration card
- Medicare card or Social Security card
- Birth certificate
- WV hunting or fishing license
- WV SNAP ID card
- WV TANF program ID card

- WV Medicaid ID card
- Bank or debit card
- Utility bill or bank statement issued within six months of the date of the election
- Health insurance card issued to the voter

Here are the acceptable forms of a photo identification:

- WV driver's license or other WV ID card issued by the DMV
- Driver's license issued by another state
- U.S. passport or passport card
- Military ID card issued by the U.S.
- U.S. or WV Government employee ID card
- Student ID card
- A concealed carry (pistol/revolver) permit

If you forget to bring a form of ID to the polls, you can still vote if you know an adult who can sign an affidavit for you. According to Donald Kersey, elections director and deputy legal counsel for the Secretary of State's Office, "As long as you bring an adult (18 years and older) who has known you for six months, they can come with you and sign an affidavit that says he or she is who he or she says they are."

April 17th is the last day to register to vote in the primary election.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN APRIL 2018 FROM PETER CLARK

April marks the season of Mmaal, which is when the rivers open, and of the Eagle Dances, when people of the Arizona Pueblo tribes dance to dramatize their communities' relationship with the Sky-World.

Sunday, April 1

- Easter Sunday – Christianity (Western churches)

Celebrating God's raising of Jesus of Nazareth from the dead, this day is the oldest and most central festival in the Christian year and initiates the fifty-day period culminating in Pentecost.

- Palm Sunday – Christianity (Eastern churches)

The remembrance of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, when crowds spread palm fronds on the ground as Jesus rode into the city. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

- Birthdays of Gurū Angad Dev and of Gurū Tegh Bahadur – Sikhism

Gurū Angad Dev (1504 – 1552 C.E.) was the second and Gurū Tegh Bahadur (1621 – 1675 C.E.) was the ninth of the Sikh Gurūs.

Thursday, April 5

- Eve of Great and Holy Friday – Christianity (Eastern churches)

At sundown Eastern churches commemorate Jesus' death by crucifixion, followed by an observance of the Great Sabbath, in which believers remember Christ's burial and await his resurrection on Holy Pascha, or Easter morning.

- Qingming – Chinese traditional

Often called Tomb Sweeping Day, it is a day to honor one's ancestors and visit their grave sites, as well as to welcome the coming of the spring season.

Friday, April 6

- Anniversary of the Church's Founding – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Sunday, April 8

- Holy Pascha – Christianity (Eastern churches)

Celebrating God's raising of Jesus of Nazareth from the dead, this day is the oldest and most central festival in the Christian year and initiates the fifty-day period culminating in Pentecost.

Monday, April 9

- Jalál – Bahá'í

The beginning of the second month in the Bahá'í calendar, "Jalál" means "glory."

- Shrimad Rajchandra Dehvilay – Jainism

This festival marks the day of the emancipation (death) of Shrimad Rajchandra, a prominent Jain philosopher, in 1901 C.E. He was an influential spiritual guide for Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi.

Wednesday, April 11

- Laylat al-Isra' wa al-Mi'rāj – Islam

The commemoration of the Prophet Muhammad's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem, his ascent into heaven and return on the same night, and his receipt of Allah's commandment of the five compulsory daily prayers. This celebration begins at dusk.

Thursday, April 12

- Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Day) – Judaism

A day of remembrance for the six million Jews who died because of Nazi atrocities during World War II. The date chosen is the closest date on the Jewish calendar to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943.

Saturday, April 14

- Vaisakhi – Hinduism

The first day of the solar year and an important harvest festival in northern India.

- Vaisakhi [or Baisakhi] – Sikhism

On this date in 1699 C.E., Gurū Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru, created the Khalsa Panth, the Brotherhood of the Pure. Khalsa brothers are given the name Singh (lion), and sisters are named Kaur (princess).

Monday, April 16

- Yaqui Deer Dance – Native American spirituality

A ceremony that integrates ancient rites of the Yaqui people of Arizona with the Christian Easter rituals.

Wednesday, April 18

- Akshaya-tritiya [Immortal Third] – Jainism

A day celebrating when Lord Adinatha or Rishabhadeva, the traditional founder of the Jain faith and the first tīrthankar (a being who helps others to cross the great ocean of worldly life and achieve liberation), broke his first year-long fast by drinking juice from a sugar cane.

Friday, April 20

- Eve of Ridván – Bahá'í (continues through Wednesday, May 2)

Commemorating the twelve days that Bahá'u'lláh spent in the garden of Ridván during his exile in Baghdad and when he proclaimed himself as the one announced by the Báb, which occurred in 1863 C.E. On the first (4/21), ninth (4/29), and twelfth days (5/2) of this festival, work is suspended. The festival begins at sundown.

Religious Holy Days in April 2018
(continued)

Saturday, April 28

- Jamál – Bahá'í

The beginning of the third month in the Bahá'í calendar, “Jamál” means “beauty.”

Sunday, April 29

- Laylat al-Bara'at or Nisf Sha'bān – Islam

According to Muslim tradition, Allah approaches the earth on this night (the middle day of the eighth month in the Islamic calendar) to call humanity to repentance and grant forgiveness of sins.

- Visakha Puja [Buddha Day] – Buddhism

Celebrated by Theravadin Buddhists on the full moon of the sixth lunar month, this is a triple commemoration of the historical Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and death and entrance into nirvana.

Monday, April 30

- Theravadin New Year – Buddhism

The New Year festival for Theravadin Buddhists, celebrated for three days beginning on the first full moon day in April.

- Ghambar Maidyozarem begins – Zoroastrianism (continues through Friday, May 4)

Celebrating the creation of sky and the harvesting of the winter crops.

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), the Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education, and www.interfaith-calendar.org

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