

UPDATE: 1 AUGUST 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, August 14th, 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.

CCSJ ANNUAL MEETING IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD AT 6:00 P.M. AT WVU'S CREATIVE ARTS CENTER: The program for our annual meeting will be a recital by Janis-Rozena Peri of unsung (pun not intended) West Virginians - i.e., women classical singers – as a way of presenting social justice challenges and ideas. The program will honor Sr. Mary Agnes Gubert; Anna Fitziu; Phyllis Curtin; Eleanor Steber; WVU alumnae Dr. Ollie Watts Davis, Marcie Ley, Joanie Jackson Brittingham, Dr. Aimé Sposato, and Emily Hastings Keene; and former WVU faculty member Frances Yeend.

Janis taught voice at WVU for many years and has been a member of the CCSJ steering committee, so we are very pleased that she offered us this opportunity partner with her. The recital will be in the Bloch Recital Hall of the Creative Arts Center and will be sponsored by the WVU Community Music Program. Barb Howe will provide commentary on the musicians. There will be a short business meeting following the recital because the people elected to three-year terms on our steering committee were elected in 2015. All are welcome!

MLK DAY 2019 PLANS STARTING: We have reserved the Metropolitan Theatre for our MLK Day 2019 event on January 21. We are pleased to report that the City of Morgantown has budgeted \$1,740 to help cover our expenses for this event. Our focus will be on the role of children/youth in the civil rights movement, but 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, August 16, 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/.

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 August:

August 6: National Night Out – Marks the importance of collaborative efforts in reducing crime and for strengthening neighborhood relationships that help prevent crime and protect persons from criminal activity.

August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples – Celebrates the richness of indigenous cultures and recognizes the challenges indigenous peoples face today, ranging from poverty and disease to dispossession, discrimination and denial of basic human rights.

August 12: International Youth Day – Celebrates young people and the integral role they play to create a world fit for children.

August 23: International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and Its Abolition – Memorializes the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade, coinciding with the anniversary of the uprising in Santa Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated its abolition. Tragically, other forms of slavery still persist today.

August 30: International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance – A day to promote taking a stand against secret imprisonment, forced disappearance and abduction, and placing persons in any situation without access to relatives and/or legal representation.

GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION MEETING IS AUGUST 5TH: The next meeting will be Sunday, August 5th, from 3:00 to 5:00 at the Church of the Brethren, 464 Virginia Avenue.

This is a very active group, and you can follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/. Action, education, and connection plans are on the agenda.

MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER MEETING AUGUST 14TH: The next meeting will be Tuesday August 14th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Monongalia Friends Meeting House, 648 E. Brockway Avenue, Morgantown. The group will be talking about our plans around GOTV (Get Out the Vote), Amendment 1 (on the ballot in November regarding abortion), Events and the 2019 Legislative Session.

If you have something you would like on the agenda, please email items to morgantownnow@gmail.com by Sunday, July 8th at 5:00 p.m.

Also, please let them know if you require childcare.

Learn about this group's activities at www.facebook.com/groups/375050676186301/.

The next event will be Saturday, August 4th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Morgantown Public Library, 373 Spruce Street.

According to the NOW Facebook page, "Join community members and the National Organization for Women (NOW) Morgantown chapter members for a morning of stories about brave women and girls! The event is open to girls and boys and will include multiple stories and special activities.

"NOW is looking for high school-aged volunteers to make this event a huge success. Volunteers will help to plan the event, read stories to guests, and lead activities. Community service hours will be provided. Interested volunteers may contact Morgantown NOW at morgantownnow@gmail.com.

"'Fearlessly Feminist Stories' is one part of Morgantown NOW's 'Feminist Families' summer series. This series is run by Morgantown NOW and involves two main events: Fearlessly Feminist Stories at Morgantown Public Library on Saturday, August 4th and a family-friendly 'Get Out the Vote' Campaign in September. Volunteers will participate in planning, coordinating, and running both events. Approval for community service hours will also be offered."

The Facebook page is facebook.com/groups/375050676186301.

WVU LGBTQ+ CENTER MIXER IS AUGUST 16TH: "Join the LGBTQ+ Center on Thursday, August 16, 2018 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm in the LGBTQ+ Center, Hodges Hall G-06, for an evening of welcoming new and returning students, building community, and learning more about the LGBTQ+ Center's programs and resources over appetizers and beverages—open to all new and returning students, faculty and staff!"

NAACP NEXT MEETING AUGUST 21ST: 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.

MOMS DEMAND ACTION FORMING IN MORGANTOWN: 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.

MONONGALIA COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER BIRTHDAY CLUB: “For a minimum donation of \$25, you can honor your friends or family on their birthday and support a young victim of abuse on theirs. By joining the MCCAC’s Birthday Club, you will ensure that a child abuse victim in Monongalia County will receive a card and present on his/her birthday. If the donation is made in honor, or memory, of a friend or family member his/her birthday will be recognized on the MCCAC Birthday Calendar and they will receive a card informing them of the donation in their honor. This is a great opportunity to support a great cause and ensure that a young child abuse victim has a happy birthday!” For more information on this opportunity go to www.moncocac.org.

NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING ARTISTS’ “DIFFERENT VOICES & COMMON EXPERIENCES” OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION: There will be a free public reception on Friday, August 3rd, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Monongalia Ars Center, 107 High Street, Morgantown. Participating artists and the community are encouraged to attend to enjoy the visual and performance art with wonderful company. Refreshments will be available. The exhibit will be open through August 25th. *For questions call or email Christine Wilcox @ 304-296-6091 or email: cwilcox@nwvcil.org.*

NEW BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP STARTING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES DUE TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC:

Thanks for Ed Horvat for passing on this information:

“Every day 115 people die from an opioid related overdose. Within this epidemic there are a lack of resources for the friends and families of the victims. We here at Harmony, want to provide help during this time of crisis.

“We are starting a support group for those who have lost friends, family, or loved ones to the opioid epidemic. The group will run from 5-6pm every other Thursday, beginning July 19th. The group will be free of charge, but donations are appreciated. Donations from the group will be given to the West Virginia Family Grief Center.

“If you would like to attend please give our office a call so that we can have the appropriate space ready. This group is designed for those who are 18 years and older. If you have any questions, or would like to reserve a spot, please call us at 304-460-5123 Option 1.”

Cole Warner, Harmony/ROOTS, 1005 White Willow Way, Morgantown, WV 26505
Phone: 304-460-5123 ext. 1

www.grwhealth.com/

Harmony & R.O.O.T.S. - Your Ally In Mental Health

www.grwhealth.com

“Harmony & ROOTS your ally in mental health. Harmony is a clinic dedicated to treating mental illness. ROOTS is a clinic for treating opioid addiction.”

STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS

Information about the **Kanawha Valley NOW** chapter is available at www.facebook.com/Kanawha-Valley-NOW-1976287046030339/?ref=br_rs or email kanawhavalleynow@gmail.com.

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

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA GALA IS SEPTEMBER 15TH: According to the Fairness West Virginia web site (www.fairnesswv.org), “This year’s gala will be held on Saturday Sept. 15 at the West Virginia Culture Center starting at 6 p.m. We hope you will take the time to register and book your rooms ASAP.

“Our special discounted rate for rooms at Charleston’s Embassy Suites of \$110/night for singles and \$120/night for doubles is available through Aug. 15. Please call 304-347-8700 and use promo code FWV.

“We welcome you to join us as advocates, legislators, and Fairness allies from across the state come together to celebrate the progress we’ve made in recent years and look forward to the fight ahead. We’ll have entertainment, a superb meal, silent auctions galore and a full, open bar. Register now to join us for the event.” The full list of sponsors is also available on the Fairness West Virginia website.

This related email came on July 31st from Andrew Schneider, executive director of Fairness West Virginia:

“Friend of Fairness,

“So often, religion is hijacked to promote hatred and discrimination. We see it in our work all the time.

“When we tried to enact an LGBTQ-inclusive nondiscrimination ordinance in Parkersburg, the opposition invoked religion to deprive us of basic protections.

“Last year we represented a same-sex couple who was berated and dehumanized for asking for a marriage license, and told they were an “abomination” in the eyes of God by a county employee.

“With the creation of a ‘Religious Liberty Task Force’ this week, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions is directing the Justice Department to use its legal muscle to help certain Christians openly discriminate against those who offend them.

“But a universal religious principle, known to many as the Golden Rule, is to treat others the way we wish to be treated ourselves.

“Earlier this year, we started reaching out to faith leaders around West Virginia who believe this commandment calls on them to oppose discrimination, not support it.

“We sat down and recorded interviews with any faith leader who agreed to talk to us. We’re happy to announce that we will soon record our 50th interview!

“We’ll be debuting a selection of those interviews in our film, ‘Faith is Fairness’ at our annual gala, 6 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Culture Center in Charleston.

“You won’t want to miss this event. Tickets are selling fast so get yours now. Join us as we reclaim the mantle of religion as a force for love and inclusion!”

ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA IS HIRING: The ACLU of West Virginia is hiring a staff attorney/legal director. More information is available at acluwv.org/.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN AUGUST 2018 FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans, August marks the season of Wilhoon, the season marking the salmon runs of late summer; the Hopi Snake Dances, marking a sixteen-day ritual of purification; the Stomp Dance, performed by Seminole and other Oklahoma tribes as a time of renewal and purification; the Sun Dance, observed by Plains peoples (Arapaho, Cheyenne, Shoshone, Arikara, Crow, Sioux, and others) as a time of penitence and sacrifice; and the Iroquois Green Corn Ceremony, a time of renewal involving dances, fasting, offerings, and readings from the code of Handsome Lake.

Tuesday, August 1

* Kamál – Bahá'í

The beginning of the eighth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning “perfection.”

* Lughnassadh [Lammas] – Wicca

The harvest of first fruits, celebrating the harvest of corn and wheat. Wiccan practitioners see this time as a signal of the god Lugh's decline of strength as the sun rises farther south each day, while the Goddess witnesses this season with sorrow and joy. It is both a somber and celebratory feast day.

Sunday, August 5

* Feast of the Transfiguration – Christianity (Eastern and many Western churches)

Celebrates the manifestation of Jesus' divinity as God's Son to his disciples Peter, James, and John on Mount Tabor.

Wednesday, August 8

* Fravardeghan Days [Muktad] begin – Zoroastrianism

A time of memorializing one's ancestors in preparation for Nowruz [see August 17], according to Zoroastrians who follow the Shenshai calendar.

Wednesday, August 15

* Assumption of the Virgin Mary – Christianity [Catholic churches]

According to the Catholic Church, this day commemorates how, at the end of her life, Jesus' mother Mary was assumed—body and soul—into heaven, where she intercedes for all believers.

* Dormition of the Theotokos or Most Holy Mother of God – Christianity [Orthodox churches]

According to the Orthodox Church, this day marks Mary's death and resurrection by God, as a sign to all believers of their ultimate destiny.

Friday, August 17

* Nowruz – Zoroastrianism

The start of the New Year for Zoroastrians who follow the Shenshai calendar, beginning the year 1388 AY [After Yazdegird III, the last of the Persian Zoroastrian monarchs].

Monday, August 20

* Yaum-al-Arafah – Islam

This day is the most important for Muslim pilgrims undertaking the Hajj journey; believers implore Allah for boundless forgiveness and mercy on the plain of 'Arafāt, adjacent to the holy city of Mecca.

* Asmā' – Bahá'í

The beginning of the ninth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning "names."

Tuesday, August 21

* Eid al-Adhá – Islam

This three-day festival of sacrifice begins at sundown and is the concluding act of pilgrimage for Muslims; adherents offer sheep, goats, and camels, whose meat is then distributed to the poor.

Wednesday, August 22

* Khordad Sal – Zoroastrianism

The birth anniversary of the prophet Zarathustra (Zoroaster), according to the Shenshai calendar.

Friday, August 25

* Zhōngyuán Jié [Ghost Festival] – Taoism

According to Chinese Taoist belief, this day is when deceased ancestors visit the homes of the living. Families prepare feasts and set tables with empty chairs so that the living and the dead can share the meal together.

Sunday, August 26

* Narali Purnima or Rakhi or Raksha Bandhan – Hinduism

Celebrating the end of monsoon season, marked by throwing coconuts to Varuna, the sea god. During this festival, girls and women tie amulets on their brothers' wrists for protection against evil.

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 British Columbia's Equity & Inclusion Office, the Center for Spiritual and Ethical Education, and www.interfaith-calendar.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.