



Community Coalition for Social Justice
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www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: 1 MAY 2019

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, May 21st**, at **7:00 p.m.** at **Panera's on Patteson Drive**. We have reserved the back meeting room. *We will not meet if Monongalia County schools are closed for the day or close early due to inclement weather.* If the weather is nice, we may meet outside.

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.

RESPONSE TO KKK FLYERS: Sandra Nelms and Susan Brown, our co-chairs, are wrote a letter to the editor of the *Dominion Post* as our response to this act of hate. It appeared in the April 3rd issue of the paper.

CCSJ AT MORGANTOWN PRIDE BLOCK PARTY: Mike Attfield and Barb Howe staffed a table for us at the block party on Saturday, April 13th. It was a beautiful spring day, and there was a large crowd, so we gathered many names to add to our mailing list and sold our “coexist” bumper stickers. Kudos to Morgantown Pride for the excellent coordination that led to such a successful event.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2020: We are just beginning to talk about our Fourteenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration on January 20, 2020, and we are pleased to report that the City of Morgantown has again committed funding to support this event. Please let us know if you have suggestions.



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, May 16th, 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 May:

Older Americans Month – Celebrates progress in protection of older people in the United States and recognizes the importance of end-of-life independence and care for older adults.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month – Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

May 1- International Workers Day – Also known as May Day, it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a worker’s strike for an eight-hour day.

May 3 - World Press Freedom Day – Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.

May 15 - International Day of Families – Celebration of two or more persons providing a continuity of support for each other, usually in terms of affection, nurture, security and protection.

May 21 - World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER MEETING IS MAY 14TH: This meeting will be from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at 201 New Jersey Street, Morgantown. This is the WV Women Work office.

The group “will continue to discuss upcoming events and priorities for Morgantown NOW. West Virginia candidate for Governor, Stephen Noble Smith will be in attendance for a Q&A about his WV Can't Wait campaign.”

“West Virginia Women Work is a statewide nonprofit that supports and advocates for the education, employment and economic equity for all women. They achieve this goal through a comprehensive

program of recruitment, training, referrals, placements, networking, advocacy, retention activities, and public workshops. WV Women Work have 5 training sites across the state and are subject-matter experts on the recruitment of women into non-traditional careers.

If you have something you would like on the agenda, please email items to morgantownnow@gmail.com by Sunday, May 12th at 5:00 p.m.

Also, please let them know if you require childcare.



GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION (GMIA). No details about the May meeting were available at “press time.”

You can follow GMIA on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/ or on the web at www.morgantowninterfaith.org. The email address is morgantowninterfaith@gmail.com.



NAACP MEETS MAY 21ST: The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 21st, at 5:30 p.m. at the Pines Country Club. Jerry Carr is the new president of this group.



MAY PFLAG GROUP MEETING IS MAY 14TH: This will be at 6:00 p.m. at the WVU LGBTQ+ Center, 724 College Ave. in Morgantown.

There will also be a May Social Gathering on Saturday, May 18th, at 8:00 a.m. at the downtown Panera Bread store, 207 Willey Street in Morgantown.

The Morgantown Roller Vixens will be donating the proceeds from their bout on June 15th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The bout is located at the Craig Civic Center (311 Tunnelton Street in Kingwood). Please attend and help spread the word (see the Facebook event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2331771927101436/>).

PFLAG’s “goal is to be a better support for our loved ones who identify as LGBTQ+. We are looking for parents, relatives, friends or allies to join us in being an extended family to the LGBTQ + community. We are part of the national PFLAG organization and are committed to advancing equality through its mission of support, education, and advocacy. For more information, please contact: secretary@pflagmorgantown.org.”

Also, please check out the webpage at www.pflagmorgantown.org/ and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pflagmorgantown/.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE: This is a new group in Morgantown “that provides social and educational resources for the LGBTQ+ Community, Friends and Allies in Mon. County.” Follow this group’s activities on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/.

Its upcoming events are:

May meeting: This will be Saturday, May 18th, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Quantum Bean Coffee, 258 Kingwood Street, Morgantown.

Queer Self Defense: This is co-hosted by The Mindbody Center and will be held on Saturday, **May 25th**, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Mindbody Center, an “alternative & holistic health service” 2000 Coombs Farm Road, Morgantown. “This Martial Arts Self-Defense class is exactly what you’ve been looking for!!!

“Everyone deserves to feel safe and secure in their surroundings. This class can help build inner self confidence and security! Bring a friend or several!! Space is limited to 15 people. Cost is \$20

Mark and Brayden will be the instructors. For more information, email Markfav1979@yahoo.com or call 304-216-1706.

Queer Holistic Workshop: This will be held on Saturday, **June 15th**, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., also at The Mindbody Center. “Join us at The Mindbody Center for a queer lesson in wellness, self-care, holistic care, and more.”

Pride Picnic: This will be on Saturday, June 22nd, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 456 Spruce Street, Morgantown. “We will be organizing games and entertainment. As plans firm up, we’ll continue to update the event page.”

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH ANNOUNCES ACADEMIC STARS FOR 2019: “Each summer the WVU Center for Black Culture and Research sponsors a program for newly enrolled African American freshman designed to enrich their college experience.

“Entitled Academic STARS, (Students Achieving and Reaching Success) this five-week program helps students build a solid academic foundation, develop cultural self-awareness, and enhance their leadership potential. Along with offering a credit bearing course, the experience includes three workshops as well as a variety of other academic and social activities.

“During the final week of the program, students are also required to participate in an authentic ‘Rites of Passage’ process, which builds on the knowledge obtained in their required classes. STARS students here at West Virginia University are retained at a very high level, and are engaged at every level of student involvement and leadership.

“The program will continue in the Fall, and students will have additional requirements such as attending related cultural programs, and being present for mandatory study tables. For this effort, they will receive a fall book scholarship which they may use in the WVU Bookstore.

“This program is fully funded, and students only need additional money for their personal needs.”

The Academic STARS online application is available at urwvu.wufoo.com/forms/z12ct6cp1bwv3t6/.

Application Deadline: Friday May 3, 2019; Program Dates: Sunday, June 23rd – Saturday July 27th, 2019



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN PROGRAMS FOR MAY:

May 5, 10:45 a.m. at UU Fellowship - Olive will talk to us about her life changing experiences living at Standing Rock, the tribal leaders who are incarcerated, and the surrounding Environmental Justice issues.

May 12, 10:45 a.m. - Mother's Day - Work, Play and Celebrate the Holiday

May 19, 10:30 a.m. - Courting a representative of the NAACP - at Heritage (to be confirmed)

May 26, 10:45 a.m. - Panel of Vietnam Vets in honor of Memorial Day

Please go to uufmwv.org/ to check for updates. Except where noted, all events are at the Fellowship building at 429 Warrick Street. All are welcome. The Fellowship is a member organization of CCSJ.

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.

TRY THIS™
west virginia

Building Blocks for
Healthy Communities

TRY THIS WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE IS JUNE 7-8TH: Registration is now open for this conference to be held at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. If you are working for a “healthier West Virginia,” then “this conference is for you.”

“Enjoy two (or three) idea-packed, inspiring days with like-minded West Virginians! Trade ideas with people from all over the state who are doing great things in their own communities. Get inspired again and again. Meet new friends! Help build a statewide movement!”

For more information, please go to trythiswv.com/conference/.

2019 WV Pride Festival Schedule

April 13 – Morgantown

May 11 – Wheeling

June 1 – Charleston

June 8 – Parkersburg

June 15 – Fairmont, Beckley

June 22 – Lost River

June 29-30 Shepherdstown, Huntington, Buckhannon

**SATURDAY,
MAY 11,
2019**

12:00 PM

**OHIO VALLEY
PRIDE
FESTIVAL
&
PRIDE MARCH**

HERITAGE PORT
1200 WATER STREET,
WHEELING, WV 26003

presented by
Ohio Valley
Pride

Ohio Valley Pride is currently accepting sponsors and vendors for this year's festival. Please go to OhioValleyPride.org, www.facebook.com/events/388092621693594/?active_tab=about, or call 304-905-9488 for more information.

A BETTER VISION FOR THE VALLEY
with keynote speaker Patricia DeMarco, Author of "Pathways to Our Sustainable Future"



SATURDAY, MAY 11TH, 9AM-4PM

JOIN US FOR A BETTER FUTURE

We want a cleaner, more sustainable economic and environmental future for our communities! We want better job opportunities! We need your involvement and input to bring a better future to The Valley!

WHEELING JESUIT UNIVERSITY
 TROY THEATER, SWINT HALL
 316 WASHINGTON AVE.
 WHEELING, WV 26003

Lunch provided - Seating limited - RSVP by May 4th

RSVP by email wewantcleanwater@gmail.com or call 740-233-1934
 Visit us on Facebook at Concerned Ohio River Residents
 More info at www.ohvec.org, www.nocrackerplantov.com and www.fwap.org

AGENDA

- 9:00 – 9:15 Registration
- 9:15 – 9:30 Introductions & Agenda
- 9:30 – 10:10 Institute for Energy Economics & Financial Analysis “Fracking, Financial Risk & Our Future Economy”
- 10:10 – 10:30 OVEC – Re-Imagining Our Appalachian Region (ROAR)
- 10:30 – 10:50 Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project – Public Health; the Externalized Cost of Pollution
- 10:50 – 11:10 Fair Shake – Community Outreach & Empowerment Program
- 11:10 – 11:30 Grow Ohio Valley
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch & Networking
- 12:30 – 1:30 Patricia DeMarco - Keynote “Choosing a Sustainable Pathway for our Future”
- 1:30 – 1:40 Outline for Visioning
- 1:40 – 3:00 Small Group Discussions
- 3:00 – 3:45 Sharing & Strategy – Action Items
- 3:45 – 4:00 Summary - Evaluations
- Conference ends – A better future begins

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN MAY 2019 FROM PETER CLARK

Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

May and June mark the season of the Hopi Kachina Dances, in which Arizona Hopi celebrants represent various spirit-powers and perform ritual dances in open pueblo areas. It is also the time of Yansa’altt, the season of berry blossoms—anticipating the berry harvest in summer, which is essential for survival in winter.

Wednesday, May 1

- Beltane [also called Beltain or May Day] – Wicca

Celebration of the sacred marriage of the divine forces—and the conception of the sun-child—that are the basis of all creation.

Thursday, May 2

- Birthday of Gurū Arjan Dev – Sikhism

Gurū Arjan Dev (1563 – 1606 C.E.) was the fifth of the Sikh Gurūs.

- Twelfth Day of Ridván – Bahá'í

The conclusion of the Bahá'í festival that commemorates Bahá'u'lláh's exile in Baghdad leading up to his declaration as the one announced by the Báb in 1863 C.E.

- 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.

Friday, May 3

- National Day of Prayer – Multi-faith, USA

Saturday, May 4

- Ghambar Maidyozarem ends – Zoroastrianism

The end of the celebration of the creation of the sky and the harvesting of the winter crops.

Sunday, May 5

- Ramadān begins – Islam

A holy month of fasting and prayer, in which all adult and physically competent Muslims abstain from food, water, and sexual relations from dawn to sunset. Ramadān ends on June 4th.

Tuesday, May 7

· 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.

Wednesday, May 15

· Restoration of the Aaronic priesthood – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Marking the restoration of this order by John the Baptist and conferred upon the Prophet Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery on this date in 1829 C.E.

Friday, May 17

· ‘Azamat – Bahá’í

The beginning of the fourth month of the Bahá’í year, ‘Azamat means “grandeur.”

Monday, May 20

· 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.

Thursday, May 23

· Birthday of Gurū Amar Das – Sikhism

Gurū Amar Das (1479 – 1574 C.E.) was the third of the Sikh Gurūs.

· Lag B’Omer – Judaism

The 33rd day in the counting of the period between Pesach [Passover] and Shavuot [the giving of the Law]; the festival begins at sundown.

Friday, May 24

· Declaration of the Báb – Bahá’í

The celebration of the day in 1844 C.E. when he announced his identity as the Gate or herald of the new age in Shiraz, Persia (modern-day Iran).

Monday, May 27 Memorial Day

Wednesday, May 29

· Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh – Bahá'í

The anniversary of the death of the founder of the Bahá'í faith in Palestine in 1892 C.E. Adherents suspend work on this day.

Thursday, May 30

· Ascension Day – Christianity (Western churches)

The anniversary of Jesus' ascension into heaven, celebrated forty days after Easter. In the Roman Catholic Church, this day is celebrated on Sunday, June 2nd.

· Laylat al-Qadr [Night of Power or Destiny] – Islam

A festival commemorating the first revelation of the Qur'ān to the Prophet Muhammad in 610 C.E., at the age of forty. Often fixed as the 27th day of the Islamic month of Ramadān, Sunnis may also observe it on the 21st, 23rd, 25th or 29th. Shi'ites observe it on the 19th, 21st or 23rd of Ramadān. The festival begins at sundown.

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 and Inclusion Office, the University of Victoria Faculty of Law (British Columbia, Canada),

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.