



Community Coalition for Social Justice
PO Box 160
Morgantown, WV 26507-0160
ccsjwv@hotmail.com
www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: 1 DECEMBER 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, December 17th**, at **7:00 p.m.** at **Panera's on Patteson Drive**. We have reserved the back meeting room. *If public schools are closed for the day or dismiss early for inclement weather, our meeting is cancelled.*

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.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2020: Our Fourteenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration will be on January 20, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. The City of Morgantown provides financial support for this event which we co-sponsor with Main Street Morgantown.

Have you seen the movie “Harriet”? If so, it will prepare you for this year’s program that will feature **Ilene Evans portraying Harriet Tubman (1820-1913)**. “Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland but escaped through the Underground Railroad in 1849. She became the most famous leader of that network, aiding slaves in their escape to free states and Canada. When the Civil War erupted her underground experiences and knowledge of covert operations made her an invaluable resource to Federal officers. She served as a spy, nurse, scout, and guide for Union troops and was present at the ill-fated assault of Fort Wagner by the 54th Massachusetts in South Carolina.”

This presentation is a History Alive! program of the West Virginia Humanities Council.

We will also feature the Cheat Lake Elementary School choir, Al Anderson and Friends, and the winners of the NAACP essay contest.

The League of Women Voters and Morgantown Human Rights Commission will have information tables in the lobby, and we will again ask people to bring donations for the Scotts Run Settlement House Backpack Feeding Program that serves 803 children in 12 Monongalia County schools. You can learn more about that program at http://www.srsh.org/home/our_work, which includes a link to the list of requested items.



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, **December 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/.

“The Morgantown Human Rights Commission will be spotlighting local residents and organizations that exemplify the spirit of diversity and human rights in the community with their annual Human Rights Day Awards. The award winners for 2019 will be **Danielle Walker** for the individual award and **West Virginia Innocence Project** for the group/organization award.

“The awards will recognize contributions toward helping to make Morgantown a more inclusive community and to protect the human rights of all. The awards will be presented **on December 3rd at 7 p.m. in the Morgantown City Council chambers** located at 389 Spruce Street in Morgantown.

“Following the award presentation, an award reception will take place at the **Aull Center at 351 Spruce Street**. The community is invited to attend the event and join the celebration of Human Rights Day as well as the Annual Human Rights Awards. Ronald L. Jones, Executive Director, West Virginia State Human Rights Commission will be speaking at the reception, and the award recipients will be recognized and will speak briefly about their experience.

“**Danielle Walker** is a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, representing District 51. Walker was elected to the office in November 2018. Some of Walker’s priority issues include safe and affordable housing, union labor, the opioid crisis, education, and working families of West Virginia. She is a prominent community activist and human rights advocate.

“**West Virginia Innocence Project (WVIP)** aims to serve and to free people who are in prison for crimes they did not commit. They work to fix the problems that lead to wrongful convictions in the justice system and focus on those issues important to the people of West Virginia. WVIP is a legal clinic within the Clinical Law Program at WVU. Each year, students work at the WVIP to investigate potential

wrongful convictions and gain practical skills. The WVIP serves those who were wrongly convicted in either state or federal court in West Virginia and does not charge for its services.”

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 December:

December 2: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – Slavery is not just history, as it affects over 30 million persons throughout the world today. Its roots are in discrimination, poverty and indebtedness, vulnerability, and the rule of law.

December 3: International Day of Disabled Persons – Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

December 10: International Human Rights Day – On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

December 16: Bill of Rights Day – Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791 – including the First Amendment Rights of religion, association, speech, petition and press.

December 18: International Migrants Day – A day to affirm commitment to diverse and open societies which provide opportunities and lives of dignity for all migrants.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS: The League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County, a CCSJ member organization, is partnering with OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) to co-sponsor a **Legislators’ Forum on December 10th** at 7:00 p.m. It will be held in an OLLI classroom in the Mountaineer (Old) Mall, and a short reception will be held following the forum. The purpose will be to hear from our legislators about their plans/goals for the 2020 legislative session and to give the public a chance to offer suggestions on actions we would like them to work on. This will be a conversation, not a debate.

The League of Women Voters is working with the state-wide West Virginia Women Vote project and the local group, West Virginia Women Vote-Morgantown, to begin planning for the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, which gave all women in the country the right to vote in 2020. If you are interested in participating in the planning, please contact Vicki Conner at vicki_conner@msn.com.



MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER DECEMBER ACTIVITIES: Follow this group on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/.

December 9th Christmas Parade: Morgantown NOW is joining the League of Women Voters and West Virginia Women Vote-Morgantown to march in the Morgantown Christmas parade down High Street at 6:00 p.m. to honor the suffragists who fought for women’s right to vote. Contact Vicki at 304-292-2640 for

details.

December 11th Festive Feminist PopUp: “We are taking over the Speakeasy at Morgantown Brewing Company for the 1st Annual Festive Feminist PopUp! Join Morgantown NOW, Planned Parenthood Votes South Atlantic and local vendors for a great night celebrating our local feminist community!

“Morgantown NOW will be hosting a feminist book sale to raise money for activities during the 2020 WV Legislative Session. Bring a period product to donate to PP and you can trade for selected titles from our value volumes.”

In the spirit of the folks who helped make the mural on the side of the Mylan Puskar Health Right Clinic, we are inviting everyone to join us in this dinner and music potluck. It's a chance to keep having great conversations that help us share stories with each other with no strings attached.

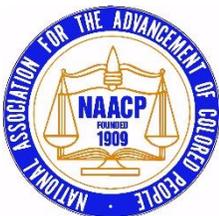
If you can bring a salad, side or desert it's great, but come with your smile if you can't! There will be plenty.

We just did something fun and amazing last month. Let's do another one!

GREATER MORGANTOWN INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION (GMIA) COMMUNITY DINNER IS

DECEMBER 8TH: “Along with Social Justice and Religious communities, the Greater Morgantown Interfaith Association is hosting a Community Dinner for the downtown community and all friends and family. It should be huge, like the potluck we had during the Design Across Divides.” The dinner will be from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Spruce Street United Methodist Church, 386 Spruce Street, Morgantown, with conversation continuing until 7:00 p.m.

You can follow GMIA on Facebook at [ww.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/](https://www.facebook.com/MorgantownInterfaithAssociation/) or on the web at www.morgantowninterfaith.org. The email address is morgantowninterfaith@gmail.com.



NAACP PROGRAMS: The next meeting will be **Tuesday, December 17th**, at 5:30 p.m. at the Pines Country Club.

Here is the information about the NAACP-Greater St. Paul AME Church essay contest for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day 2020. CCSJ is pleased to partner in this contest by inviting the winners to share their essays at our event on January 20th.

“To All Parents, Teachers, and Interested Community Members:

“The Morgantown/Kingwood NAACP again proudly joins the Greater St. Paul AME Church in celebrating Martin Luther King and his legacy. As part of this recognition, we are providing students at elementary, middle, and high school levels the opportunity to learn more about the history of civil rights by participating in our annual essay competition. You may participate in two ways: First, invite area students to submit essays for our 2019-2020 contest. Second, be among those in the audience at the celebration at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, at Greater St. Paul AME Church, 61 Beechurst Ave., Morgantown, WV.

“This year’s general theme is ‘What’s Different Today? Civil Rights Before and After Martin Luther King.’ Essays must be a minimum of 300 words and must focus on a civil rights topic (not on Martin Luther King’s biography). Essays can be supplemented by artwork, photography, and video. Entries must either be emailed by 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, 2019, or postmarked by December 18, 2019, by the U.S. Postal Service.

“The first-place winners at the elementary, middle, and high school levels will each receive a certificate and a monetary award of \$100. Students who place first also will be expected to read their essays at the MLK program on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, and the MLK program given by the Community Coalition for Social Justice (CCSJ) on Monday, January 20, 2020, at the Met Theater.

“We are requesting your help to make sure we reach every interested child in the schools and community. The essay guidelines are attached to this letter. Please note that students must provide the information requested on the entry form. The form includes a release and certification statement that must be signed by a parent or guardian. See the accompanying guidelines for other instructions. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

“Sincerely,
Dr. Jerry Carr Jr., NAACP President”

Here are the guidelines:

“What’s Different Today? Civil Rights Before and After Martin Luther King”
2019-2020 NAACP MLK Essay Contest Guidelines
For Elementary, Middle, and High School Students

*\$100 each for the first-place elementary school essayist, middle school essayist,
high school essayist*

**Essay Contest Sponsored by the Morgantown/Kingwood Chapter
of the NAACP and The Greater St. Paul AME Church**

(National Association for the Advancement of Colored People: 3241NAACP@gmail.com)

1. Follow this year’s theme, ***“What’s Different Today? Civil Rights Before and After Martin Luther King.”*** Focus on Monongalia County or any community in the United States of America.

2. Select a **civil rights category**: (*But do not write a biography about Martin Luther King.*)
 - a. Public education (Example: From 1st grade through 12th grade in schools; from undergraduate programs through graduate programs at universities.)
 - b. Public accommodations (theaters, restaurants, public transportation, hotels, swimming pools, bathrooms, parks, water fountains, camps, etc.)
 - c. Housing (rentals and sales related to homes, apartments, mobile home parks, etc.)
 - d. Employment (schools, stores, restaurants, gas stations, etc..)
3. Learn about your chosen civil rights category in one or more ways:
 - a. Interview one or more persons who experienced or witnessed activities that occurred within your civil rights category “*before and after Martin Luther King.*”
 - b. Interview informed descendants of a person or persons who experienced or witnessed activities that occurred within your civil rights category. Drawing from their relatives’ stories, what is different or not different today? What’s better for people of color?
 - c. Find and read details in books, magazines, and newspapers that describe activities that occurred within your civil rights category. What’s better? What needs to change?
4. Write and submit an essay about what you heard and read:
 - a. Give details about your civil rights category. What examples that reflect life “before and after” MLK? Expand upon the basics: who, what, when, where, why, and how.
 - b. Provide documentation of all your sources: books, magazines, newspapers, etc. Include the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all persons you interviewed.
 - c. Type your essay, which must be a minimum of 300 words. You may supplement your research with copies of artwork, photography, and video. Put your name on each page you submit. Your work will be judged for its age-appropriate content, clarity, theme development, and grammar.
 - d. **Ask your parent or legal guardian to complete and sign the entry/waiver forms.**
5. Submit your essay along with your entry/waiver forms by email or via the U.S. Postal Service. All entries must either be emailed by 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, 2019, or postmarked by December 18, 2019.
If emailing, use: 3241NAACP@gmail.com (note new address) or
If mailing, use: NAACP Essay, NAACP Morgantown/Kingwood Branch, P.O. Box 4091, Morgantown WV 26504-4091.

NAACP Essay Contest 2019-2020

NAACP Morgantown/Kingwood Branch, P.O. Box 4091, Morgantown, WV
26504-4091

Required Entry Form and Parent/Legal Guardian Waiver Form for

Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-12

Student's Name:		Grade:	
Title of Essay:		Word Count:	
Home Mailing Address:		Student's Age:	
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Home Phone Number: <i>(including area code)</i>			
Parent/Legal Guardian's Name:			
Parent/Legal Guardian's Cell Phone Number: <i>(including area code)</i>		Parent/Legal Guardian's Email Address:	
School's Name:			County:
School's Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
School's Phone Number: <i>(including area code)</i>			

Parent/Legal Guardian's Release Statement

As parent (or legal guardian), I acknowledge that my child has written the attached essay. Should he or she win the essay contest, I agree to allow the essay and a picture of my child to be distributed publicly. I agree that my child will be available at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, to read an excerpt from his or her essay for the Martin Luther King Program at St. Paul AME Church, 61 Beechurst Avenue, Morgantown, WV, and also at the Community Coalition for Social Justice MLK Program at the Metropolitan Theater on Monday, Jan. 20, 2020. I also understand that the essay will be subject to disqualification if it is discovered that my child plagiarized or that the thoughts expressed are not his or her own.

I, _____,
(Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian)

hereby certify that I am the parent/legal guardian of

(Print Name of Participating Student)

Brief Reminders (See the guidelines for more details)

- 1 The student's essay **must** cover this year's theme: "What's Different Today? Civil Rights Before and After Martin Luther King." *See the accompanying guidelines for other instructions.*
- 2 This entry form must be properly signed and completed, and it must accompany each student's essay.
- 3 A student may submit only **one** entry. All entries must either be emailed by 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, 2019, or postmarked by December 18, 2019.
- 4 Essays and entry forms should be submitted by email or mail. *See guidelines.*
By Email: 3241NAACP@gmail.com
By Mail: NAACP Essay, NAACP Morgantown/Kingwood Branch, P.O. Box 4091, Morgantown, WV 26504-4091.
- 5 All students **must** provide the information requested on the entry form. The form includes a release and certification statement that **must be signed by a parent or guardian.** See the guidelines for other instructions.



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE IS DECEMBER 21ST: The "Longest Night" service at Morgantown Church of the Brethren comes in the midst of holiday gaiety. At 7:00 pm on December 21, the brief service encourages us to examine the dark places—losses, pain—and welcome the returning of the light. At 464 Virginia Avenue, the church welcomes all. The Church is a member of CCSJ.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN PROGRAMS FOR DECEMBER:



December 1: Tree Trimming Open House. Bring treats or leftovers of choice. We will be decorating the sanctuary and doors - revitalizing all of those lights. Meaningful conversation and Christmas music. Food can be rolled over to the Community Dinner Potluck from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Everybody is welcomed. "Everyone who is wondering about this new partner at UUFM but has never met this wonderful village of parents and children should join us this holiday season." For more information, please call 304-906-1014.

December 8: First in a Series of video and discussions about Genetic Engineering, Ethics and how we and society at large might react to a changing reality. Michael Sciliano is the facilitator. Lunch of some

sort will follow to continue discussion. Also please see the flyer for the Community Dinner later that afternoon at Spruce Street United Methodist Church.

December 15: Hanukkah Program at Village at Heritage Point at 10:30 a.m.

December 22: Holiday themed programming - to be planned.

December 29: Continuation of the Genetic Engineering Discussion followed by lunch.

Except where noted, all events are at the Fellowship building at 429 Warrick Street at 10:45 a.m. unless otherwise noted. All are welcome. The Fellowship is a member organization of CCSJ.



PFLAG MORGANTOWN DECEMBER EVENTS: Information on December events was not available at “press time.” Follow PFLAG on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pflagmorgantown/ or www.pflagmorgantown.org.



MORGANTOWN PRIDE EVENTS: This group “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/.

“In support of all the **Morgantown Public Library** does for our community, we would like to invite you all to give back! We are starting an **LGBTQ+ book drive** so others in Morgantown can celebrate diversity through cozying up with a great book.

“If you have any books in good condition which you would like to donate, please feel free to bring them on down to the library at 373 Spruce Street.

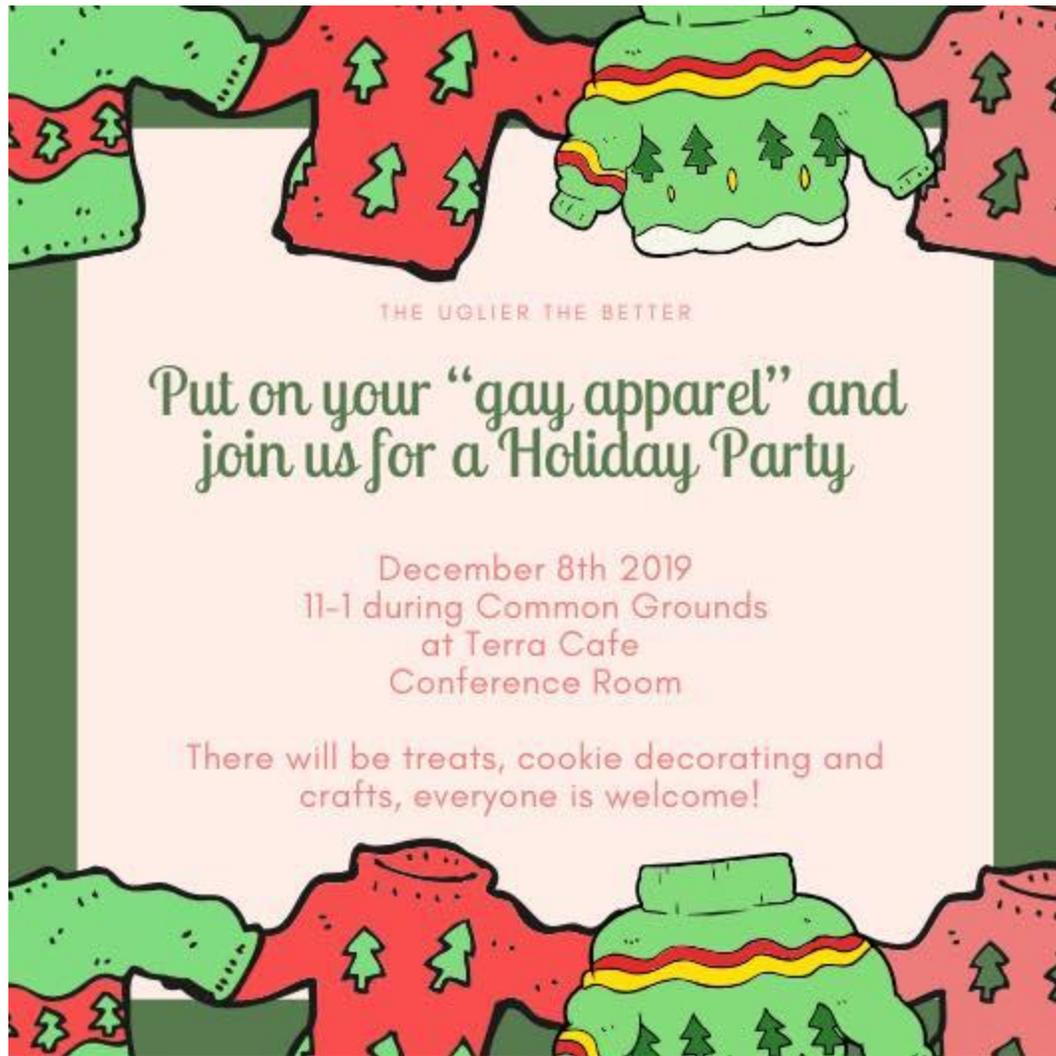
“Live out of state? Don't have any donatable books lying around at home? We have put together an Amazon Wish List filled with LGBTQ+ books which are not yet available at the Morgantown Library!

“If you notice that one of your favorite books is not on here, please let us know! We will check to see if it is already listed in their collection and, if not, add it to the wish list.”

Here are the future events:

December 2: Winter Formal Gay-La. This will be at the Monongalia Arts Center from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for single admission and \$75 for a couple. “Morgantown Pride invites adults to an evening of dancing, silent auction, live entertainment and a art showcase.” Attire is formal.

December 8: Morgantown Pride Ugly Sweater Get-Together. The monthly community meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. before the “get-together.” If you want to help volunteer or assist in planning for the next Pride event, please attend!



April 17-19: Pride Weekend 2020. There will be a Pride Parade downtown on the 17th “and all are welcome to participate!” The second annual Pride block party will be on Saturday, April 18th! No further information about this event was available at “press time.”

Morgantown Pride is also “thrilled to announce that we have been asked to be in a documentary! Over the next few months, we will team up with filmmaker and director Sara Werner - a wonderful woman who wants to highlight our organization and the local queer community! We are beyond thankful for this opportunity to collaborate!”

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH: The Center is promoting its Social Justice Spotlight series at cbc.wvu.edu/social-justice-video-spotlight. “Social Justice Spotlight is a film series produced by The Center for Black Culture and Research, which features interviews with academics and professionals from across campus who have recognized the importance of a culturally responsible curriculum. Their courses and academic programming provide students with the canons of their discipline, while also intentionally creating a more diverse classroom learning environment.”

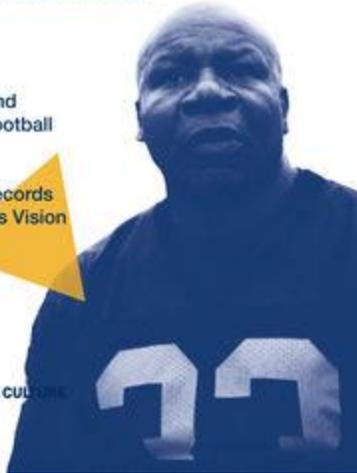
THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BREAKFAST

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020
8 AM, MOUNTAINLAIR BALLROOM

EUGENE NAPOLEON KEYNOTE SPEAKER

- ▲ Former WVU and Professional Football Player
- ▲ CEO of NAP Records and NAP Sports Vision Entertainment

CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH



WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH ANNOUNCES MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY BREAKFAST:

The MLK Unity Breakfast will take place in the Mountainlair Ballrooms at 8:00 a.m. on Monday January 20, 2020.

“The Breakfast is an opportunity for the WVU and greater Morgantown communities to come together to celebrate the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. , and to recognize those in our community who have worked to uphold the principles of equity and social justice that he lived and gave his life for.”

For more information about Eugene Napoleon, please go to cbc.wvu.edu/events/2020-martin-luther-king-jr-unity-breakfast.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Achievement and Scholarship Awards will be presented at the breakfast. The deadline for nominations is December 2nd at 4:00

p.m. Information is available at cbc.wvu.edu/events/2020-martin-luther-king-jr-unity-breakfast/mlk-achievement-and-scholarship-award.



WVU LGBTQ CENTER EVENTS: Here are the upcoming events:

“Every Monday: ACE Tea! @ 2:00 - 3:00 PM. Join Brandi for this weekly group for Asexual camaraderie and tea. All are welcome! Come to the LGBTQ+ Center Monday’s at 2 for Asexuality themed activities. Different activity each week, ranging from movies to book discussions to crafts to a (hopeful) mini cake baking session. Ask questions, mingle, and of course drink tea! (If tea is your jam, that is!) First

week is fandom meet & greet! Discuss your fictional favs and get introduced to everyone. For more info contact Brandi at bah0031@mix.wvu.edu.” This will be held every Monday through December 9th.

“Every Tuesday: Snacks & Cartoons @ 3:30 - 4:30 PM. Join Daniel for an afternoon snack, cartoons and fun. Come chill out, watch some cartoons, and join Daniel and friends for a fun discussion about how Steven Universe teaches us about gender identities and expressions.” This will be held every Tuesday through December 10th.

“Every Wednesday: Genderwhat?! @ 2:00 - 3:00 PM. Join this weekly discussion group with Erica and friends to learn more about the gender non-binary spectrum, play games, make crafts and be yourself. Genderwhat?! is a community for people who are trans, gender-nonconforming, genderqueer, or any sort of nonnormative gender. The goal of this community

is to create a safe space not only for discussion, but also a place to have fun and build friendships with other people on campus who are not cisgender. Each month is focused on a theme, meaning the events in a certain month would all pertain to a certain subject. Some example themes include: gender expression and fashion, the LGBTQ+ community in various countries, relationships, family "out"ings, or queer history." This will continue December 4th and 11th.

Quilt Project

No Hate in
My Holler



Every Monday
12:00 - 1:30 pm
LGBTQ+ Center (Maple House: 724 College Ave)

Help design and create the "No Hate in My Holler" Quilt! This will be a collaborative quilt made with everyone's vision of what it means to have "No Hate in My Holler."

Feel free to come with your own designs or we can help you create one.

lgbtq.wvu.edu | 304-293-9593 | lgbtq@mail.wvu.edu | Maple House: 724 College Ave

"How does your holler look like? Feel free to come with your own designs or we can help you create one. No experience necessary. This event is free and open to ALL." It will continue December 2nd and 9th.

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 and a web page at wvnow.org.

Join organizations and individuals committed to moving West Virginia forward at the 2020 All Kinds Are Welcome Here Civil Liberties Lobby Day at the State Capitol!

"We'll be partnering with incredible folks from all over the state again for the fourth annual event! We'll have an advocacy training

webinar prior to Lobby Day to make sure you are comfortable talking with your elected officials about issues that matter to you.

“Make sure you join us at 9am on January 23rd, outside of the Senate Chamber to learn more about the organizations hosting this year’s Lobby Day. At 10:15, we’ll be hosting a Press Conference and we’ll then be viewing a floor session from the House and Senate Galleries at 11am. Following floor session, you’ll have the opportunity to speak with your legislators during scheduled constituent meetings until 2pm, then join us in the evening for Beer not Bigotry at The Red Carpet.

“Come stand with us in solidarity to show the West Virginia Legislature that West Virginia should be a place that welcomes and respects ALL people!

“Stay tuned for more details, including how to register for constituent meetings!

“Partners: ACLU of West Virginia, Planned Parenthood Votes South Atlantic, Fairness West Virginia, WV FREE, Call to Action for Racial Equality: CARE Coalition, Rainbow Pride of West Virginia, Inc., West Virginia Citizen Action Group, and West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence.”



ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA: You can support the ACLU’s work for immigrant rights by buying a red or blue t-shirt that features the New River Gorge Bridge and the message of “Build Bridges Not Walls.” The shirts are \$25 each and can be ordered from www.acluww.org/en/news/buy-build-bridges-not-walls-tee-here.



FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA ANNOUNCES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MUNICIPAL SCORES: Fairness announced these scores, which are based on municipal law, on November 19th. Huntington scored a perfect 100, the first time a West Virginia city has achieved this score, while Charleston scored 91. In addition to those two cities, there are scores for Charles Town (45), Lewisburg (43), **Morgantown (75)**, Parkersburg (13), and Wheeling (57).

Morgantown received a score of 30 out of 30 for non-discrimination laws and 8 of 8 for leadership on LGBTQ equality. We scored 14 of 28 on “municipality as employer,” 7 of 12 on “municipal services,” and 12 of 22 on “law enforcement.” Details of the Morgantown score are available at assets2.hrc.org/files/images/resources/MEI-2019-Morgantown-West_Virginia.pdf?_ga=2.138843895.555842879.1575135868-512947019.1575135868. The full index for the country is available at www.hrc.org/mei.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN DECEMBER 2019 FROM PETER CLARK

For Native Americans of the Zuni tribe in New Mexico, December marks the time of the Shalako Kochina Ceremony. For other aboriginal tribes, this is the season when the river freezes and the land sleeps, known as Luut’aa.

Sunday, December 2

- First Sunday of Advent (hope) – Christianity (Western churches)
- Chanukah [Hanukkah] begins (through December 10) – Judaism

The Jewish Festival of Lights commemorates the Maccabean victory over Syrian-Greek oppressors and the recapture and re-dedication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165 B.C.E. Special readings and praise songs focus on liberty and freedom. The eight-candle Menorah is lit at sundown, and gifts are given.

Sunday, December 8

- Second Sunday of Advent (peace) – Christianity (Western churches)
- Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) – Buddhism

Celebration of the time when Prince Gautama (also later known as Shakyamuni Buddha) took his place under the Bodhi tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment.

Monday, December 9

- Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Catholic Christianity

A Roman Catholic holiday celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin for her entire life.

Tuesday, December 10

- Human Rights Day

While not a religious festival, this day marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, including Article 18 which states: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.”

Thursday, December 12

- Masá'il – Bahá'í

The beginning of the fifteenth month of the Bahá'í year; its name means “questions.”

- Feast Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe – Catholic Christianity

Commemorating the appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531 C.E. Juan Diego, a native American living during the Spanish conquest of Mexico, saw a vision of the Virgin Mary. He was told to build a church in her honor exactly where he stood, and in that spot the Basilica of Guadalupe was^[1]_[SEP] erected. Thousands of pilgrims from all over the world travel to that church every year and venerate the icon of the Virgin that is there, imprinted on Diego's cloak; it is believed that Our Lady of Guadalupe can

intercede with God so that faithful believers' prayers can be answered, and miracles can occur. She is also the patron saint of Mexico.

· Sanghamittā Day – Buddhism

Celebrating the anniversary of the arrival of King Asoka's daughter Sanghamittā, who founded an order of nuns in Sri Lanka and carried with her a branch of the original tree under which the historical Buddha found enlightenment (it still survives in the ancient capital of Anuradhapura). This festival occurs on the full moon day in December.

Sunday, December 15

· Third Sunday of Advent (joy) – Christianity (Western churches)

· Bill of Rights Day

While not a religious festival, this day marks the signing into law of the ten original amendments to the United States Constitution in 1791, including the First Amendment that protects citizens' freedoms of speech and of religious expression.

Monday, December 16

· Posadas Navideñas begins (through December 25) – Christianity (Western churches)

A Latino/Latina Christian feast of the Lodgings, commemorating the journey of Mary and Joseph toward Bethlehem in preparation for the birth of Jesus.

· Simbáng Gabi begins (through December 24) – Christianity (Roman Catholic and Philippine Independent churches)

A nine-day series of night Masses observed by Filipino/Filipina Roman Catholics and members of the Philippine Independent Church in anticipation of Christmas and in honor of the Virgin Mary.

Tuesday, December 17

· 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, December 19

· Maunajiyaras – Jainism

A day of fasting, silence, and meditation on the five holy beings: monks, teachers, religious leaders, Arihants or Jinas (enlightened masters), and Siddhas (liberated souls). This day is also marked as the birth anniversary of many Tirthankaras or Pathfinders.

Saturday, December 21 winter solstice

- Winter Feast – Native American spirituality

A time when Native Americans of the Woodland tribes share food with the spirits of winter.

- Yaldā – Zoroastrianism

The “night of birth” which marks the longest night of the year, after which days begin getting longer— thus symbolizing the victory of light and goodness over dark and evil. This festival is celebrated with storytelling, poetic readings, family reunions, and feasting.

- Yule – Wicca

A celebration symbolizing the rebirth of the sun by the Goddess. A present-day Wicca event that ritually marks the shedding of the dross of the past year and contemplating one’s future spiritual development.

- Tohji-Taisai [Grand Ceremony of the Winter Solstice] – Shintō

This day marks the end of the sun’s decline (the yin period) and the beginning of its growth (the yang period). In Japanese spirituality, the sun is expressive of Amaterasu Omikami, the sun goddess and guiding spirit of the Japanese people.

Sunday, December 22

- Fourth Sunday of Advent (love) – Christianity (Western churches)

- Chanukah [Hanukkah] begins (through December 30) – Judaism

The Jewish Festival of Lights commemorates the Maccabean victory over Syrian-Greek oppressors and the recapture and re-dedication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165 B.C.E. Special readings and praise songs focus on liberty and freedom. The eight-candle Menorah is lit at sundown, and gifts are given.

Monday, December 23

- Birthday of the Prophet Joseph Smith – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Commemorating the birth of Joseph Smith, Jr., in 1805 C.E. in Vermont. He translated what became known as the Book of Mormon and became the first president of the LDS Church when it was founded in 1830 in Fayette, New York.

Tuesday, December 24

- Christmas Eve – Christianity (Western and Eastern churches)

Celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. It is observed with worship, carols, candle lighting, manger scenes and festive meals.

Wednesday, December 25

- Christmas Day/Feast of the Nativity – Christianity (Western and Eastern churches)

Celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts, and family parties.

Thursday, December 26

- Kwanzaa begins (through January 1) – African American heritage

A seven-day festival that celebrates values highly regarded by people of African American ancestry. The values include umoja (unity), kujichagulia (self-determination), ujima (collective work and responsibility), ujamaa (cooperative economics), nia (purpose), kuumba (creativity), and imani (faith). Each of these principles, collectively known as the Nguzo Saba, is represented by a red or green candle, each of which is lit on successive days using a central black candle.

- Synaxis (Sobor) of the Theotokos – Christianity (Eastern churches)

According to Eastern Orthodox Christians, this feast day is perhaps the most ancient celebration of Mary in the Christian tradition. It commemorates Mary as the human being through whom Jesus' incarnation as the human Son of God was made possible. The terms "synaxis" and "sobor" refer to a liturgical gathering and often indicate special occasions for divine worship.

- Zaratosht Diso [Anniversary of the death of the prophet Zarathustra (Zoroaster)] – Zoroastrianism

Estimates of when he lived vary from the sixth to the second millennium B.C.E., but this date memorializes the death of the prophet Zoroaster, whose hymns (gathas) are preserved in the Zoroastrian scriptures.

Thursday, December 27

- St. Stephen's Day – Christianity (Eastern churches)

Remembrance of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

Saturday, December 28

- Holy Innocents' Day – Christianity

A day of solemn memory for the male children of Bethlehem killed by King Herod in an attempt to destroy Jesus.

Tuesday, December 31 New Year's Eve

· Ghambar Maidyarem (through January 4) – Zoroastrianism

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

· Sharaf – Bahá'í

The beginning of the sixteenth month of the Bahá'í year; its name means "honor."

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.

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