

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

UPDATE: 3 NOVEMBER 2013

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 steering committee meeting will be at Panera's on Monday, November 11 @ 7:00 pm. We are working on plans for our Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration for 2014, so please join us if you wish to help us plan this annual event at the Metropolitan Theatre.

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. We decided at the last steering committee meeting that, after more than 13 years of keeping our dues at \$5, we should ask for \$10 for individuals.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY UPDATE: Please plan to join us at the Met Theatre on Monday, January 20, at 2:00 pm for our annual program to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We again appreciate the assistance of Main Street Morgantown and the City of Morgantown in making this event possible.

Local news

MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next meeting of the Morgantown Human Rights Commission will be Thursday, November 21, 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 <http://www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/>. The commission has been working on bylaws and recently submitted them to City Council for review.

COMMUNITY MURAL THEME IS "A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY: Workshops are being held on Wednesday, November 6, November 20, and December 4, at the Wiles Hill Senior Center (the old Wiles Hill School for long-time Morgantown resident) from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. to make glass mosaic leaves to add to the "Celebration of Diversity" mural that is along the rail trail. You don't need any experience to make a leaf that represents you or your organization or special interest group. Leaf-makers are asked to donate \$11 for each leaf to cover the costs of materials. The leaves will be installed in April.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY MEETING ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT: Some League members have invited CCSJ members to attend their meetings to discuss how we might work together, so we want to publicize the League's Workshop #2 on Local Government: "What D'ya Know ...About Monongalia County Government?" which will be held on Wednesday, November 6, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Sheriff's Department Room 222 (Corner of Walnut and University Ave. Park in Univ. Ave. Parking Garage; enter on Walnut Street).

There will be a panel presentation entitled Three Issues, featuring "Practical Experiences on a Five Member County Commission" by Lyn Widmyer, County Commissioner from Jefferson County; "County Finance and Budgeting in Mon County" by Ora Ash, Head of Local Governmental Services Division of the West Virginia State Auditor's Office; and "Accessibility and Transparency in Mon County Government" by John Sofranko, a League member. The meeting is open to the public.

JOBS WITH JUSTICE UPDATE: There is no further information on this initiative at the moment, as Jeff Cech, who had been instrumental in getting us organized has moved on to another assignment. Stay tuned.

THE MORGANTOWN MUNICIPAL GREEN TEAM ANNOUNCES THE THIRD IN ITS 2013-14 SERIES OF GREEN NIGHTS AT THE LIBRARY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14: ENERGY SAVINGS AND REDUCED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FOR MORGANTOWN CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT

Here's the press release from Pamela Cubberly:

"Have you ever wondered how much energy Morgantown uses and how that translates into greenhouse gas emissions?"

"Would you like to learn how you could save energy in your home or business?"

"Do you have ideas for our decision makers on how our community can save energy and create a more sustainable Morgantown?"

"If you answered yes to any of these questions, please join a conversation about energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in Morgantown on Thursday, November 14. The event is the third in a fall series of "Green Nights at the Library," organized monthly by the Morgantown Municipal Green Team. The meeting will take place at the Morgantown Public Library at 373 Spruce Street starting at 6:00 PM. Parking is available across the street.

"Jeff Simcoe, Ben Gilmer, and Andrea Varrato of the local consulting firm Downstream Strategies will introduce the community to an Appalachian Stewardship Foundation-sponsored project whose overall goal is to identify and implement energy-saving opportunities in Morgantown.

"Ben Gilmer—a member of the project team and co-author of the final report—said, "By identifying ways to reduce energy and resource use, the City and its residents can save money through lower energy bills, while also lowering greenhouse gas emissions."

"The project will also show City progress in meeting environmental goals outlined in the 2013 Comprehensive Plan. These goals include implementing programs that protect natural areas, using

energy sources efficiently, and promoting healthy waterways and clean air.

“Jeff Simcoe, who is managing the project, said, “While local governments have performed greenhouse gas emissions inventories across the country, this will be the first in West Virginia and will serve as a model for other municipalities across the state. We would like to thank the Appalachian Stewardship Foundation for the grant funding as well as the City of Morgantown for their support during this very important project.”

“Downstream Strategies is leading this project in coordination with the City of Morgantown staff and the Morgantown Municipal Green Team. Specifically, the project will inventory greenhouse gas emissions, identify cost-effective opportunities to save energy, and help implement recommendations to save money and reduce emissions.

“The presentation will highlight early results and solicit community input to ensure that the project outputs and energy saving measures reflect community priorities. Participants will also be able to exchange ideas on energy-saving techniques that have worked for them. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

“Downstream Strategies, with offices in Morgantown and Alderson, WV, offers environmental consulting services that combine sound interdisciplinary skills with a core belief in the importance of protecting the environment and linking economic development with natural resource stewardship. For more information, [seewww.downstreamstrategies.com](http://www.downstreamstrategies.com).

“The Morgantown Municipal Green Team is a group of citizens that advises the City of Morgantown on matters relating to sustainability in public policy, planning, education, departmental management, development, and evaluation of environmental and energy-related issues. For more information see www.morgantowngreenteam.org.

“For more information on this event, please contact Pamela Cubberly, Morgantown Municipal Green Team (Pamela@Cubberly.net), Cubberly & Associates, 703-218-5417 (tel), 703-463-7643 (cell) or Jeff Simcoe (jsimcoe@downstreamstrategies.com).”

NATIONAL NEWS

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN WORKING TO END DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT: West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin has announced his support for the federal legislation to end discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment. Please thank him for his support. He was the 59th senator to announce his support, and Senator Jay Rockefeller has also announced his support. The goal is to get 60 senators to support the legislation to avoid a filibuster in the Senate.

NOVEMBER DIVERSITY 2013 FROM ED HORVAT

November is **National Native American Heritage Month** (USA). Although the first "American Indian Day" was declared by the State of New York in 1916, a month long recognition of Native Americans was not achieved until 1990. In that year, President George Bush (R) declared the first National Native

American Heritage Month. His action was based on legislation presented by Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Congressional Delegate Eni Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa).

Interfaith (USA) – It's that time of year again! The American Red Cross is gearing up for this year's **Holiday Mail for Heroes** program. You are invited to send holiday cards to our American service members, their families, and veterans. Please send all cards to: Holiday Mail for Heroes, PO Box 5456, Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

The deadline for this year is December 6th (anything postmarked after the 6th may not be delivered). After Pitney Bowes collects and screens the mail received in the PO Box, Red Cross workers deliver holiday greetings to service men and women in their communities. More information: <http://www.redcross.org/news/article/va/richmond/Holiday-Mail-for-Heroes-Mailbox-Open-Through-December-6>.

Christianity – November 1. **All Saints Day** (some Western churches) is a day to honor Christian saints throughout the ages.

Mexican American - November 2. **Día de los Muertos**. Every year, on November 1st (All Saints Day) and 2nd (All Souls Day), something unique takes place in many areas of the Americas: **Day of the Dead** festivities. While it's strange for many to accept the fact that "death" and "festivities" can go hand-in-hand, for many Mexicans and Mexican Americans, the two are intricately entwined. This all stems from the ancient indigenous peoples of Mexico (*Purepecha, Nahuatl, Totonac and Otomi*) who believed that the souls of the dead return each year to visit with their living relatives—to eat, drink and be merry—just like they did when they were living. Because of somewhat similar outlooks, this custom blended with the Christian observances of **All Saints Day** and **All Souls Day** where honor and prayers are offered for the “cloud of witnesses” that share the faith with present-day believers.

Hinduism – November 3. **Diwali**—or Deepavali—is a celebration often referred to as the **Festival of Lights**. It is the Hindu New Year. Diwali lasts for 5 days. Candles and lamps are lit, gifts are exchanged, and festive meals are prepared. This festival teaches the believer to drive back the darkness that tries to engulf the light of knowledge by vanquishing the ignorance that subdues humanity. Diwali is perhaps the most popular of Hindu festivals.

Jainism – November 3. **Mahavira Nirvana**: On this day (6th century BCE), the 24th Tirthankara attained nirvana and release from the cycle of rebirth (moksha).

Sikhism – November 3. Bandi Chhor Divas, “**The day of the prisoners’ release**” commemorates the return of the sixth Guru, Hargobind Ji, to the holy city of Amritsar. Since he was released on the day of Diwali, Sikhs in Amritsar illuminate the city.

Jainism – November 4. **New Year Day – Day of Enlightenment of Lord Gautamswami**. In the early morning of the first day of the new year, Banadhar Gautamswami, the first disciple of Lord Mahavira, attained absolute enlightenment. Jains begin the new year with a glorification of Lord Gautamswami.

Islam – November 5. The **first of Muharram** (first month of the Islamic year 1435) celebrates the Hijra (migration) of Muhammad [Peace Be Upon Him] and his followers in 622 CE, from Mecca to Medina, where they established the first Islamic community.

Jainism –November 7. **Jnana Panchmi (Day of Acquiring Knowledge)**: Some Jains celebrate transcendent wisdom by fasting for 36 hours. Others perform rituals and pray for right knowledge.

Baha'i Faith – November 12. The **anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah**, the founder of the Baha'i faith. Baha'is suspend work on this day.

Islam – November 14. **Ashura** commemorates the safe passing of Prophet Moses through the Red Sea while fleeing from Pharaoh. Prophet Mohammad went to Medina (after Hijra) and found the Jews fasting, and asked his companions to start fasting it as well (first obligatory, then voluntarily after Ramadan became the mandatory fasting season). '*Ashura*' in Arabic literally means tenth day, since it takes place on the tenth day of the Hijra month Muharram. Shiite Muslims celebrate (calling the festival Muharram) for ten days from the first of Muharram. The death of Husain (Prophet Muhammad's grandson) occurred on '*Ashura*' in AH 61 (680 CE).

Christianity – November 15 (Gregorian calendar), November 28 (Julian calendar). **Fast of the Nativity**, a.k.a. the **Philippian Fast**, is a 40-day voluntary period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that precedes the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas) in the Eastern Churches. The Gregorian calendar locates the Nativity on December 25, the Julian calendar on January 7.

Jainism – November 17. **Lokashah Jayanti**. The full moon of the calendar's first month is a time to celebrate the births of revered and scholarly persons. The most famous of these is the 15th century reformer Lonka Saha whose opposition to temple worship and the use of images led to the founding of the Sthanakavasi sect, which emphasizes scholarship.

Sikhism – November 17. **Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji**, founder of the Sikh faith and first of the Ten Gurus, was born in 1469 CE. He was an accomplished poet; 974 of his hymns are contained in the Sikh Scriptures, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

Baha'i Faith – November 26. The **Day of the Covenant** celebrates the anniversary of the appointment of 'Abdul-Baha', the son of Baha'u'llah, as the Center of the Covenant.

Baha'i Faith – November 28. The **Ascension of 'Abdul-Baha'** commemorates his death.

Judaism – November 28 - December 5. **Hanukkah** (Chanukah), the **Festival of Lights**, is celebrated for eight days to remember the victory of Judah the Maccabee for religious freedom, the rededication of the Temple in 165 BCE, and to celebrate the awesome power of God. According to the Talmud, only a one-day supply of nondesecrated oil was found in the Temple when the Maccabees prepared it for rededication. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days until oil that was fit for use in the temple could be obtained. Jews light menorahs in their homes to commemorate this miracle. Hanukkah begins at sundown on November 27.

NOTE The above is not a complete calendar and is intended only as an example of some of the kinds of festivals, holy days, and religious observances of North America's many religious communities. It is composed from sites for interfaith calendars on the web and the Multifaith Calendar 2013, published by the Multifaith Action Society of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. To purchase the Multifaith

Calendar for 2014, visit <http://www.interfaithmarketplace.com/> in the USA; or www.multifaithcalendar.org in Canada and elsewhere.