

Community Coalition for Social Justice
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www.ccsjwv.org

UPDATE: 2 JANUARY 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: The Steering Committee will next meet at Panera's on Monday, January 7th @ 7:00 pm. We do not have the meeting room reserved for this meeting so look for us in the general restaurant area.

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfeld 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 - \$5 for individuals and \$25 for organizations – to CCSJ, PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION UPDATE: The Human Rights Commission held its second meeting on December 20th. Tim Hairston from the West Virginia Human Rights Commission and CCSJ was scheduled to talk to the group, along with Paul Sheridan from the West Virginia Attorney General's office.

2013 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY PLANS FINALIZED (WE HOPE!!):

Please join us for all three activities that CCSJ is sponsoring for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day this year.

On **Sunday, January 13th**, we will be showing a segment of *Eyes on the Prize*, the superb documentary about the history of the civil rights movement. This will be at 2:00 pm at the Monongalia Friends Meetinghouse, 648 E. Brockway, Morgantown. This is free and open to the public.

On **Friday, January 18th**, we will hold a reception at ArtsMon, 201 High Street, Morgantown, from 5:00-7:00 PM to showcase student art projects related to our theme of "Hand in Hand, Together We Can." We will also be showcasing potential CCSJ logos that Eve Faulkes's WVU design students are developing. Students from Cheat Lake, North, and Ridgedale Elementary Schools are also participating, along with art students working with Sandy Cress. Morgantown Friends of Old Time Music will display their poster collection. This is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

The **Seventh Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day** event at the Metropolitan Theatre will be on Monday, January 21 at 2:00 pm. We are again co-sponsoring this with Main Street Morgantown. The event is free, open to the public, and family friendly.

There is still time to be part of this program, as we invite everyone interested to participate in the community choir that will sing at the event. No prior choir experience is necessary. The next rehearsal will be on Monday, January 14th at 7:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, 456 Spruce Street, Morgantown. The choir will sing three pieces: "Imagine" by John Lennon, "A Mystic Chord" based on a speech Abraham Lincoln gave about unity; and "Haba Na Haba," a Swahili song about not giving up. For more information about the choir, please contact Sheila Rye at Sheila.rye@gmail.com.

The program will begin with a welcome by Morgantown Mayor Jim Manilla and introductions of members of Morgantown's new Human Rights Commission. Morgantown City Manager Terrence Moore will read Faith Ringgold's children's book entitled *My Dream of Martin Luther King*, and Morgantown poet Susan Sailer will read an original poem. The Morgantown Children's Choir, community choir, Skyview African Drum and Dance Ensemble, WVU African Drum and Dance Ensemble, and Morgantown Theatre Company will also perform. The program will conclude with a performance by the High Street Jazz Band, which is back by popular demand from last year, and the traditional audience singing of "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

There will also be a special visit from Abraham Lincoln and Girl Scout Troop 53520 will again help.

This year, we will be collecting items to donate to the Milan Puskar Health Right, which is located on Spruce Street. We know many of you are familiar with the good work of Health Right, which is a "primary care clinic that provides health care at no cost to uninsured or underinsured low-income residents of North Central West Virginia." Health Right needs white athletic socks, disposable razors, spray deodorant (for the shower program, so more than one person can use it), regular size shampoo, and regular size ethnic hair care products, adult size soft bristled toothbrushes, and regular size tubes of toothpaste.

For more information about previous Martin Luther King, Jr., Day events and CCSJ, please go to www.ccsjwv.org.

And many thanks to Main Street Morgantown for assistance with publicity for this event and to the Met Theatre staff for help with logistics. The City of Morgantown provides the funding for this event and allows us to use the Met Theatre. Last year, we had about 700 people come. We hope to see YOU there this year!

LOCAL NEWS

WVU Center for Black Culture and Research 23rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast will be held on Monday, January 21st, at 8:00 am at the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms. Admission is free. Please RSVP by January 14th by calling 304-293-7019.

There will also be an **Inaugural Ball** to celebrate the second inauguration of President Obama on Monday, January 21st, at 7:00 pm at the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms sponsored by the WVU Center for Black Culture and Research. Admission to the ball is free, and guests are asked to wear "formal/professional attire." Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. Please RSVP for the ball by January 14th by calling 304-293-7029.

The WVU Center for Black Culture and Research is also trying to activate the **Black Student Union** at WVU. If you know of people who would be interested in being part of this effort, please have them contact Bruce Mitchell II, the assistant director of the center, at bruce.mitchell@mail.wvu.edu. For

more information, please go to www.cbc.wvu.edu.

Empty Bowls Needs Your Help: The Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser that raises money for the food pantries in Monongalia County is scheduled for February 23, 2013, but you can help before that date. Thanks to Ed Horvat and Bill Hagerty for this information announcement:

Empty Bowls Monongalia and The WOW Factory Team Up and they need YOU!

“Are you interested in doing something to help alleviate hunger for your neighbors in Monongalia County? Would you like to do more than simply attend the annual Empty Bowls Luncheon? If you answered “yes” to either of these questions, there is an opportunity for you to contribute in an enjoyable and meaningful way. The WOW Factory is hosting Bowl Parties to produce hand painted bowls for the annual luncheon. Bowls are available to be painted for only \$6.00 per bowl. You hand paint the bowls, they are fired by the WOW Factory staff, and the completed bowl will be transported to the annual luncheon. Your hand painted bowl will be available for someone to choose and take home as a reminder of the fight against hunger here in Monongalia County. If you are interested in painting bowls call Dina at The WOW Factory at 304-599-2969. Here is a chance to have fun, to be creative, and do something to help others in Monongalia County. “

There are no set times for these bowl parties. You can go at any time.

NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING SEEKS INFORMATION ON HOUSING DISCRIMINATION: Here’s the latest request for assistance from Jan Derry, executive director of NWVCIL:

“Do you have consumers facing housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, familial status, blindness or ancestry? Please refer them to the WV Fair Housing Action Network (FHAN) for assistance.

Examples of potential housing discrimination-

- Denying a request for a reasonable accommodation or modification by a person with a disability
- Denying housing to a person based on a protected class
- Giving different terms or conditions for housing based on a protected class
- Refusing to deal or negotiate with a potential renter/ homeowner based on a protected class
- Harassment and hostile environments
- Threatening, intimidating or coercing someone who files a fair housing complaint

Please note that FHAN does not help consumers find housing. FHAN assists consumers to file fair housing complaints and negotiate accommodations and modifications with housing providers. . Contact FHAN at 304-296-6091 or 1-800-834-6408, and ask for Claire Chantler or visit us online at www.wvfairhousing.org.”

For more information about NWVCIL, contact Jan Derry, Executive Director, NWVCIL, 601-3 E. Brockway Ave., Suite A&B, Morgantown, WV 26501, 304-296-6091, jderry@nwvcil.org.

STATE-WIDE NEWS

FAIRNESS WV WORKING TO END EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION:

Here is the latest e-news from Coy Flowers, president of the board of directors of Fairness WV:

“Now that we’ve rung in the new year, it’s time we get to work!

It is indisputable: West Virginians have a long and proud history of being hard workers, and we have never shied away from breaking our backs to move this state and country forward.

But did you know that today, in West Virginia, some of those hard workers are not protected and are not safe from discrimination at their jobs?

Currently, it is legal in our state to fire someone simply because of who they choose to love.

At Fairness, we believe that all West Virginia workers should be evaluated solely on their performance - not on any personal characteristic that has nothing to do with their ability.

In West Virginia, our independent spirit has echoed from the peaks of our mountains to the depths of our coal mines. Therefore, we are confident that you will want to join with us to protect all West Virginia workers.

How do we do this?

Join Fairness, ACLU of WV, AFL-CIO, UMWA, and a growing coalition of committed organizations to encourage our elected officials to protect all ALL West Virginia workers.

Lawmakers in Charleston are poised to consider legislation that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations - known as the Employment and Housing Non-Discrimination Act (EHNDA).

As many of you are probably aware, passing this legislation has been years in the making. We at Fairness are confident that with your help, this is the year for making EHNDA the law of the land in West Virginia.

Make no mistake, the next several months are critical in making this happen. We need your help. **Make it your New Year's resolution to help finally end discrimination in the West Virginia workplace. If you are getting this electronically and right click on the "sign petition" button, it should tell how to access the on-line petition.**

In addition to signing our petition, we need an army of volunteers to aid in this process. Stand up and be counted!

Also, please Like Us on Facebook and invite all your friends to follow Fairness. ”

JANUARY DIVERSITY CALENDAR FROM ED HORVAT

NEW YEAR'S DAY – January 1. Secular traditional holiday celebrated in western nations for the last 400 years. It incorporates many ancient symbols and rituals of hope for rebirth and fertility such as the New Year's Baby and resolutions of change.

SHINTO – January 1. *Gantan-sai*. Shinto's welcome in the New Year with prayers for renewal of hearts, good health and prosperity. They wear their best clothes, and visit shrines in large numbers, sometimes at the very stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve. During the seven days of the holiday, people visit one another's homes to offer good wishes for the coming year.

CHRISTIANITY – January 6 (Gregorian calendar), January 19 (Julian calendar). *Epiphany*, also known as *Theophany* in Eastern churches, is the second of two festivals celebrating the manifestation of Jesus as Christ, the first being Christmas or the Feast of the Nativity. Originally, Epiphany celebrated both the nativity and the baptism of Christ, but in the fourth century, Christmas was introduced to commemorate the nativity. In the Western churches, Epiphany signifies the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, and is associated primarily with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus. The Twelve Days of Christmas end on the eve of this celebration. The Eastern churches associate Theophany with the baptism of Jesus by John and the miracle at Cana when Jesus turned water into wine. The

Armenian Orthodox Church celebrates the Nativity of Jesus on Epiphany, January 6.

CHRISTIANITY – January 7. **Feast of the Nativity**. Some Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate **Christmas** according to the Julian calendar, which is currently 13 days behind the Gregorian. “Your birth, O Christ our God, has shed upon the world the light of knowledge; for through it, those who worshiped the stars have learned from a star to worship You, the Sun of Justice, and to recognize You as the Orient From On High (Eastern Church Troparion for the Feast).”

HINDUISM – January 14. **Makar Sankranti** marks the change from a decrease to an increase of the sun.

SHINTO – January 14. **Seijin-no-hi (Coming-of-Age Day)** is a holiday when young women and men twenty years of age go to shrines wearing traditional clothing. Their families announce their adulthood to the kami or spirits, and pray for health and wellbeing for a lifetime to come.

BAHA’I FAITH – January 15. **World Religion Day**. At this annual celebration of the teachings of unity found in all religions, Baha’is invite representatives of other traditions to address a common theme.

CHRISTIANITY – January 18 – 25. **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** begins.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY (Secular-USA) – January 21. “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction.... The chain reaction of evil--hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars--must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.”

--Martin Luther King, Jr., Strength To Love, 1963

(LOCAL) MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY – January 21, 2 to 4 p.m. The Community Coalition for Social Justice is sponsoring its Sixth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration at the Metropolitan Theatre. This event is co-sponsored with Main Street Morgantown and is designed for families. It is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the CCSJ web site at www.ccsjwv.org or email ccsjwv@hotmail.com.

ISLAM – January 24. Mawlid al-Nabiy. Muslims commemorate with profound love and abounding joy, the **birthday of the Prophet Muhammad** (peace be upon him), who was born in the city of Mecca around 570 C.E. The prophet’s teachings are read from the Holy Qur’an and religious meetings are held. Some Muslims do not celebrate, feeling that this observance is an innovation that distracts from the true source of revelation. For others, it is a means to teach their communities about the Prophet Muhammad’s way of life, which all seek to emulate. The festival begins at sundown.

JUDAISM – January 26. One of four New Year’s days, **Tu B’Shevat** (the 15th day of the month of Shevat) is the New Year’s Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Nowadays, it is a day for environmental awareness and action such as tree planting. Special meals (Seders) include the seven fruits of the land (wheat and barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and [date] honey), each symbolizing a spiritual reality. The festival begins at sundown.