

## Community Coalition for Social Justice

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**UPDATE: 2 FEBRUARY 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, February 11th @ 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 Attfield at [attfield@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:ccsjwv@hotmail.com). Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at [barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu](mailto: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:** here's an update from Don Spencer:

“The HRC is eager to get underway, but because of the nature of the work, it will take some time before we can do very much on community issues. We have been meeting with the State HRC for orientation, preparing budget requests for next year, beginning work on our operations protocols – which will need to be approved by City Council, and planning our needs survey.

“At the next HRC meeting we will be meeting with representatives of the City administration. Dave Bott has been assigned to be the liaison for our meetings. We are hoping that if our two budget requests are approved, we will be able to begin work on the needs assessment process in July.

“We meet on the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Conference Room. Our meetings are open to the public.”

All seven members were able to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day event and were introduced from the stage.

### **2013 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY WAS ANOTHER SUCCESS**

On **Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**, we held a reception at ArtsMon, 201 High Street, Morgantown to showcase student art projects related to our theme of “Hand in Hand, Together We Can.” This exhibit will now be up until the end of February, so there is still time to see potential CCSJ logos that Eve Faulkes's WVU design students developed. Students from Cheat Lake and North Elementary Schools have exhibits, as do art students working with Sandy Cress, who did amazing “sculptures” representing events in the civil rights movement. Morgantown Friends of Old Time Music are displaying their poster

collection. Please stop by!

The **Seventh Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day** event at the Metropolitan Theatre was held on Monday, January 21 and we again co-sponsored this with Main Street Morgantown. About 700 people again attended, with about 125 of them on stage at some point.

The program included a welcome by Morgantown Mayor Jim Manilla and introductions of members of Morgantown's new Human Rights Commission. Morgantown City Manager Terrence Moore read Faith Ringgold's children's book entitled *My Dream of Martin Luther King*, and Morgantown poet Susan Sailer 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 also performed. The program concluded with a performance by the High Street Jazz Band and the traditional audience singing of "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Three girls from Cheat Lake Elementary School delivered parts of the "I Have a Dream" speech and then shook hands with "Abraham Lincoln," who watched from the stage as he did in 1963. Girl Scout Troop 53520 again helped.

We collected items to donate to the Milan Puskar Health Right, and Laura Jones, executive director of Health Right, provided a stark contrast between the costs of VIP treatment at a hotel in Washington, D.C., during the inauguration that day with the needs of the clients of Health Right.

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 provided the funding for this event and allowed us to use the Met Theatre. And thank, especially, to all the adults who worked with all the children who performed that day and who provided transportation and support so that they could perform.

For more information about previous Martin Luther King, Jr., Day events and CCSJ, please go to [www.ccsjwv.org](http://www.ccsjwv.org). We are already starting to think about Martin Luther King, Jr., Day 2014!

## LOCAL NEWS

**THE WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH** has many events scheduled, all of which are free and open to the public:

February 7-7:30 pm – WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms – Cory Booker, Mayor of Newark, New Jersey, will speak on "Bridging the Divide: The Strengths and Challenges of Diversity in America," as part of the WVU Festival of Ideas.

February 12-7:00 pm – WVU Mountainlair Rhododendron Room – African American Read In, co-sponsored with the English Club

February 20-7:00 pm – WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms – Dr. Terrence J. Roberts, one of the "Little Rock Nine," will speak.

February 28-7:00 pm – WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms – The Abdullah Brothers (Hamaza and Husain), NFL players with the Arizona Cardinals and Minnesota Vikings, respectively, will discuss their Muslim journey as professional athletes, co-sponsored by the WVU Muslim Student Association and WVU College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences.

**HARRIET TUBMAN RETURNS TO WVU ON FEBRUARY 7:** All are invited to the WVU Cecilia Rollins Brown Bag Lunch Film and Discussion Series for a special "History Alive" presentation by Ilene Evans in

recognition of Black History month from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in the WVU Mountainlair Gluck Theatre. Harriet Tubman was part of the anti-slavery resistance network, known as the Underground Railroad. She was born into slavery in Maryland, but escaped through the Underground Railroad to Pennsylvania in 1849 and became the most famous leader of that network, aiding slaves in their escape to free states and Canada. She was known as "General Moses" to the hundreds of enslaved Africans and their descendants. Tubman helped to free hundreds of people held in bondage and inspired thousands of others. She was never caught and never lost anyone on the route to freedom. Ms. Evans performs, teaches, and lectures throughout the United States and overseas. She recently toured the Middle East and Columbia for the United States Embassy to share African American Culture. Her work is educational, entertaining, and enjoyable.

Ms. Evans has a passion for history and in 1991 she created "General Moses: Stories from the Life of Harriet Tubman" to feature the story of Harriet Tubman and her role in the Underground Railroad. She has received the Tidmarsh Foundation for the Arts grant for her portrayal of General Moses.

This event is free and open to the public. Pizza will be served on a first come, first served basis. If you do plan to attend, please email James Johnson at [James.Johnson@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:James.Johnson@mail.wvu.edu) to help determine the amount of pizza to order!

**EMPTY BOWLS STILL 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.

**WVU WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES 2013 RESIDENCY:** This year’s resident is Dr. Sondra Hale, professor emerita of anthropology and gender studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where she has taught since 1986. In addition, she taught at the University of Khartoum in Sudan and California State Universities, Long Beach and Northridge. She is co-director of the UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies and was co-editor of the *Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies*. Dr. Hale will give a public lecture on **Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m.** in G20 Ming Hsieh Hall. The lecture, entitled “Women in Conflict Zones: The Politics of Memory in Sudan and Eritrea,” will examine conflict and gender in the Middle East and North Africa, and the role of memory, Islam, and nationalism in both civil and human rights. This is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies at [wmst@mail.as.wvu.edu](mailto:wmst@mail.as.wvu.edu) or 304-293-2339.

**DR. SONDRA HALE**

**WINTER GREEN NIGHT AT LIBRARY ON FEBRUARY 7- MAKE YOUR OWN ECO-SAFE CLEANING AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS:** WVU faculty member and owner of Natural Home Essentials, Karen Woodfork, will show you how to make your own household cleaners, foaming hand soap, and other natural products right at home. Woodfork is a faculty member in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at the WVU School of Medicine. In 2008, she founded Natural Home Essentials and currently offers laundry powder, laundry stain remover, vegan lye soap, facial and body soap, body butter, lotion bars, hand cream, and hair conditioner at Mountain People's Co-op in Morgantown.

This fun, do-it-yourself workshop is free and open to the public only requires a willingness to learn and a few of your own small containers and spray bottles to take home what you make. The session takes place from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at the downtown public library (373 Spruce Street in Meeting Room A in the basement of the Morgantown Public Library. Look for signs when you enter the library to find the room. Parking is available across the street and a nearby parking structure.

For more information, please contact Pamela Cubberly, Morgantown Green Team ([Pamela@Cubberly.net](mailto:Pamela@Cubberly.net)).

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, please visit [www.morgantowngreenteam.org](http://www.morgantowngreenteam.org).

## STATE-WIDE NEWS

**ACLU OF WEST VIRGINIA:** The ACLU of West Virginia is sponsoring a program on "Justice Reinvestment in WV" on Saturday, February 9, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Davis Gallery of the WVU Law Center. "Learn what ACLU of WV is doing to educate and legislate change in West Virginia, with a preview of the hot button issues to be battled out in 2013 as well as a provocative presentation by Reverend Matthew Watts on the state of West Virginia's prisons and the reform movement aimed at increasing public safety and ensure social justice." Admission is free, and this is open to the public. To RSVP, please call 304-345-9246 or [mail@acluwv.org](mailto:mail@acluwv.org).

### **Fairness WV congratulates Morgan Spurlock for standing up for LGBT youth in West Virginia!**

Morgan, a native of Beckley, WV, and an Oscar nominated filmmaker (Supersize Me), stars in a new [Public Service Announcement](#), presented by Fairness WV and the American Civil Liberties Union of WV. The announcement is aimed to increase public education about the dangerous reality of bullying in West Virginia, particularly against our youth who are or are perceived to be gay.

Morgan tells the real life experience of Matthew, a student from St. Albans, WV. Matthew's story is shocking but, unfortunately, not uncommon. He, like many youth, was the victim of bullying based on his sexual orientation.

Like Morgan, we at Fairness WV believe all children, straight or gay, deserve to achieve an education safe from harm and free from bullying.

In a recent survey, two out of three students felt unsafe in school because of their sexual orientation (GLSEN, 2009). Yet, it was only this year that the documentation of bullying based on sexual orientation was finally conducted in WV due to efforts by Fairness WV to ensure this happened.

"With the passage of a new school board policy last December which allows for the documentation of

bullying based on sexual orientation, we can now begin to honestly address the reality of LGBT bullying,” said ACLU of WV Executive Director Brenda Green. “Every student has the right to feel safe at school.”

Fairness WV is so proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with the ACLU of WV and critically-acclaimed Morgan Spurlock, to loudly say to all children, parents, and educators of this state, bullying in our schools, on our playgrounds, and in our communities, is not acceptable anymore, for any reason, including that which has been so viciously directed towards these kids who are or are perceived to be gay.

Please join us by sharing the PSA & show your support for WV Bully-Free by [considering a donation so that we can continue our work to end discrimination and bullying against LGBT students in WV.](#) [Join our email list!](#)

**FROM FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA: FAIRNESS WV WORKING TO END EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION:**

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).

There will be a kick-off for this campaign on Thursday, February 12, at the WVU Mountainlair from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

To learn more about this effort, go to <http://www.fairnesswv.org/>.

**FEBRUARY DIVERSITY CALENDAR FROM ED HORVAT**

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH** – started in 1926. February was chosen because both Abraham Lincoln (president who freed slaves during the Civil War), and Frederick Douglass (a black who worked to end slavery) have birthdays this month.

**EARTH-BASED SPIRITUALITY** – February 2. Imbolc celebrates the increasing strength of the God, given as the first and greatest gift of the Goddess, from which will come the later material and spiritual harvests. Imbolc comes from an archaic Gaelic expression “in the belly” which signaled the first stirrings of life within the womb of mother earth. The Goddess is honored at this time as the source of fire, poetry, arts, crafts, agriculture and smith craft.

**SHINTO** – February 3. Popularly known as the Bean-throwing Festival, Setsunbun-sai marks the end of winter and the eve of the first day of spring according to the ancient East Asian solar calendar familiar to Japanese Americans. Beans are thrown into each room of the house, and then through the outer doors, with the shout, “Devils out, Fortune in!” Today, Setsunbun-sai is a happy family festival.

**LUNAR NEW YEAR / BUDDHISM** – February 10. The first day after the new (dark) moon is a religious and cultural festival celebrated for about two weeks by Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean Americans of Buddhist and other backgrounds as New Year’s Day for the year 4711. People dress up in costumes, exchange food and gifts, visit family members, and remember ancestors. They settle all business accounts and forget all grudges. This calendar year marks the “*Year of the Snake*.”

**CHRISTIANITY** – February 11 (Eastern Christian Churches following the Gregorian calendar). First day of The Great Fast (or the Great Lent), the 40-day period prior to the beginning of Holy Week, ending with Lazarus Saturday, the day before Palm Sunday. It is the final six weeks of a ten-week period of

spiritual discipline, cleansing, and fasting leading up to *Pascha* (Easter).

**WORLD DAY OF THE SICK** – February 11. Prayer for those who serve the sick: Compassionate God, Source of Life, Spirit of All Healing: Bless, direct, and guide us. Remembering that each of us will take our turns in darkness and in light, let us be light for one another when the darkness falls. Gentle our hands. Soften our eyes. Open a window in our hearts so that Your Grace and Loving-Kindness may shine through. Make of our attention a safe shelter for the healing of the sick, in mind and heart, spirit and body. Renew us always in Your love. Amen.

**CHRISTIANITY** – February 13 (Western Christian Churches). Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent in the Western Christian liturgical year. Lent is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting that occurs in the forty days (excluding Sundays) before Easter to prepare for Christ's resurrection and the redemption of believers.

**BUDDHISM** – February 15. Nirvana Day. In northern Buddhist traditions, this is the day to remember Buddha's passing away. Buddha reminds us that disappearance and instability characterize all things in the world; that coming together inevitably means parting. In religions of Indian origin, nirvana means, "blowing out," i.e. the cessation of greed, hate, delusion, attachment, and desire—all the fuel of rebirth.

**HINDU** – February 15. Celebrated by Americans of North Indian descent, Vasanta Panchami is a celebration associated with Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning; and with Lakshmi, Goddess of Wealth.

**JUDAISM** – February 24. Purim celebrates victory over an oppressive ruler, as related in the Book of Esther, which is read at this time. When the oppressor's name is mentioned, the listeners stamp their feet, boo and hiss, and make noise with graggers. The festival begins at sundown the previous day.

**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 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 Port Moody, British Columbia, Canada.

To purchase the Multifaith Calendar for 2013, visit <http://www.interfaithmarketplace.com/> in the USA; or [www.multifaithcalendar.org](http://www.multifaithcalendar.org) in Canada and elsewhere.