

Community Coalition for Social Justice
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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, April 8th @ 7:00 pm.

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Atfield at atfield@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.

“Y.E.R.T (YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL ROAD TRIP)” TO BE SHOWN AT WVU COLLEGE OF LAW ON APRIL 3: CCSJ is cooperating with the Monongalia Friends Meeting, Monongahela Chapter of the Sierra Club, Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, Tree of Life Sisterhood, WVU Law School Center for Energy and Sustainable Development, and YOTT2013 (Year of the Tree) to sponsor a showing of this award-winning film at 6:30 pm in the Lugar Courtroom. Admission is free, and there is plenty of free parking. We are very pleased that producer Mark Dixon will be with us to show the film and lead the discussion.

Please help us publicize this opportunity by distributing the following press release and learn more at www.yert.com:

Bewildering predictions about our planet's future? What to do? Film producer Mark Dixon packs his camera and two friends into a car.

Their goal: "50 States. 1 Year. Zero Garbage". Called to action by a planet in crisis, the three friends hit the road, with hope, humor -and all of their trash - to explore America, the good, bad, and weird, in search of innovators tackling humanity's greatest environmental challenges in this award-winning docu-comedy.

Author Jeff Biggers says in Huffington Post, "The Fellini trio of the climate justice movement, the YERT film crew has managed to pull off the impossible in the world of cinema--a deeply absorbing and often hilarious road trip that confronts the badlands of our nation's spiraling descent into dirty energy darkness, only to emerge along the solar roadways and wind-swept plains into the myriad possibilities for new power and sustainable living. By the dramatic end of Your Environmental Road Trip, audiences will not only cheer, but feel compelled to spring to their feet to join an inspiring movement for change.

If only our nation's policymakers will watch this important film and do the same."

A dynamic speaker, Mark will also introduce Transition Towns, a fast-growing energy descent and re-localization, global sustainable community movement. Mark is a founder of Pittsburgh Transitions. Learn more about this at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transition_Towns

NEW CCSJ ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER: We welcome the Iron Workers District Council of Northern Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and Northern West Virginia as a new member of CCSJ. Jeff Cech is their district council organizer and contacted CCSJ to discuss Jobs for Justice issues.

LOCAL NEWS

CARITAS HOUSE SPONSORS LGBT SMOKING CESSATION GROUP: Ron Gibbs, the Prevention Educator at Caritas House, has asked us to publicize a LGBT smoking cessation support group. The group will meet once weekly on Sunday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. for five weeks. The organizational meeting will be on April 7th at Vice Versa. We will decide as a group where to meet after that. There will be food provided and guest speakers on motivational topics. Members will set their own goals with help; they may choose how to quit or may choose simply to reduce their smoking. Please help publicize this group. For further information please contact Ron at 304-985-0021 (work), 304-916-5883 (cell), or go to the Caritas House web site at www.caritashouse.net

WVU NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM SPONSORS ELDER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM: "In the Courts of the Conqueror," a free public lecture by WVU Native American Studies Elder-in-Residence Walter Echo-Hawk (Pawnee Nation Supreme Court Justice) will be held on **Wednesday, April 3**, in the Blue Ballroom of the Mountainlair, downtown campus. The welcoming reception is from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, followed by the 6:00 pm lecture and book-signing. Mr. Echo-Hawk's current book is *In the Courts of the Conqueror: The Ten Worst Indian Law Cases Ever Decided*. To learn more about this speaker, see: <http://www.walterechohawk.com/>

Mr. Echo-Hawk's residency is sponsored by the Carolyn Reyer Visiting Lectureship Program for Native American Studies, the WVU Native American Studies Program in the Eberly College of Arts & Sciences, The Department of History, and The Office of Diversity & Global Initiatives in the College of Education and Human Services.

GREEN MORNING AT THE FARMER'S MARKET: ORGANIC GARDENER'S RESOURCE FAIR: Here's a press release from the Morgantown Municipal Green Team:

“Have you thought about starting a small organic garden in your backyard but didn't know where to begin? Are you curious about composting and rain barrels? Ask experts your gardening questions at an Organic Gardeners' Resource Fair, **Saturday**,

April 6.

“The Morgantown Municipal Green Team is holding the fair so citizens can get their gardening questions answered, with a focus on organic and other green gardening practices. This is your chance to find out what you need and may have stopped you from trying!

“Several organic gardening experts from WVU’s Division of Plant and Soil Science (Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design) will be on hand at a Gardeners’ to answer your questions on organic gardening, composting, rain barrels, hydroponics, trees, and much more!

“The event takes place smack in the center of the last Winter Farmer’s Market on Saturday, **April 6**, from 11:00am to 2:00pm at Wesley United Methodist Church (503 North High Street) in downtown Morgantown.

“And don’t forget to bring your shopping bags so you can sample some of the fine local products at the last Winter Farmer’s Market.

“For more information, please contact Pamela Cubberly, Morgantown Green Team (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.”

HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE PRESENTS REPORT TO MORGANTOWN CITY COUNCIL: The Rev. John Sonnenday of Morgantown’s First Presbyterian Church and Laura Jones, executive director of Milan Puskar Health Right, presented the report of the Morgantown-Monongalia Task Force on Homelessness to City Council’s Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 26. There will be a public meeting on **April 24th** “to introduce the plan to the community,” according to the *Dominion Post*. No time or place has been publicized yet for this meeting, but we will try to publicize it on our web site when this is set.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next meeting of the Morgantown Human Rights Commission is **April 18th** at 6:30 pm in the Public Safety Building conference room. All are welcome.

STATE-WIDE NEWS

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA DROPS PLANS FOR LEGISLATION TO END DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT: We’ve been reporting on the campaign to have the state legislature pass a law ending discrimination in housing and employment based on sexual orientation. You may have seen a short article in the *Dominion Post* this week that announced the end of this campaign for this

legislative session. Dr. Coy Flowers, president of the board of directors of Fairness West Virginia, explained the decision as follows in an e-mail dated March 27:

“Yesterday, the Supreme Court of the United States began two consecutive days of oral arguments, potentially leading to the equal recognition of all our nation's people - gay or straight - and their constitutional right to marry.

“We, the LGBT community, in this country are moving forward at speeds previously unrecognized in our fight for civil rights. It truly is a new day for equality and fairness in America.

“Today, I have the unfortunate responsibility of communicating to all of you - Fairness' steadfast and amazing supporters, volunteers and donors - that our work to pass House Bill 2856, the Employment & Housing NonDiscrimination Act or EHNDNA, has come to an impasse.

“When we began this journey to secure for West Virginia's LGBT citizens the same opportunities to find and keep a job or a home as everyone else, Fairness made a pact with each of you that we would not be divided by our opponents. We agreed on one main principle: To stand together, shoulder to shoulder - gays with lesbians, bisexuals with transgenders - and fight with all that we could muster to achieve dignity and respect for everyone in our community.

“Everyone. Every. Last. One.

“Earlier this morning, Delegate Stephen Skinner [from Jefferson County and the state's first openly gay member of the House of Delegates] released a statement, saying ‘Today, I asked House Small Business Committee Chairman Doug Skaff to not run HB 2856, as he had planned to do. While we had the votes to pass the bill in both of the committees to which it was assigned, I believe that the bill would have been amended and watered down to such a extent that the bill would not have offered protections to all of the 57,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender West Virginians. I also believe that our margin of votes for the floor vote was so small, only a vote or two, that it is the wisest course of action to fight the battle another day.’

“Delegate Skinner further lamented, ‘Obviously, I am bitterly disappointed. My disappointment is overshadowed by the gratitude I have for the hundreds of volunteers and the thousands of supporters who poured their hearts and souls into the campaign to pass this legislation this year.’

“We at Fairness share Delegate Skinner's disappointment.

“We're disappointed that a majority of the West Virginia House of Delegates would pick and choose who they'd like to discriminate against rather than pass a fully inclusive EHNDNA.

“We're disappointed that, despite overwhelming evidence that passing EHNDNA is not only the "right thing to do" but also right for our state's economy and future, some Delegates still lack the courage to stand for a better tomorrow for all of us.

“And, we're disappointed - no, we're down right angry - that some West Virginia Legislators allow their personal homophobia to dictate their vote instead of listening to the pleas of their own constituents to pass this bill.

“BUT...we are hopeful.

“So hopeful because our awesome ‘Hard Work Doesn't Discriminate’ Coalition to pass EHNDNA has grown to unbelievable proportions. Organizations, businesses, and individuals alike have come together like never before to say in the clearest voice: We stand with our LGBT workers, neighbors, family members and friends to give all of us equal opportunity in this state.

“So hopeful to realize that our volunteer network now spans the entire breadth of West Virginia. From all across the Mountain State, people of all ages, colors, genders and faiths, have given countless hours of their time to phone bank, lobby, and organize. Our capacity to reach into communities throughout our state is impressive and has essentially planted the seeds to grow fairness and equality in our largest cities and the most rural of towns.

“And, so hopeful because we know that we are right, that history is on our side, and that with each passing day we are winning the hearts and minds of all of West Virginia.

“Because of all of this, Fairness IS and remains so hopeful that EHNDNA will be the law of West Virginia in the very near future!

“Fairness does not view this EHNDNA impasse as a setback; instead, this is but a temporary slowing of our forward momentum. Tomorrow, we fight on, as our work is not done. We have people to call, events to organize, and lawmakers to persuade. To do all this, WE need YOU - to continue to passionately work with us all over this state to finally see a day when all Mountaineers - including the LGBT ones - truly are Always Free.

“Always yours in Fairness,

“Coy A. Flowers, MD

“President, Board of Directors”

APRIL DIVERSITY CALENDAR FROM ED HORVAT

MORMON – April 6. Anniversary of the **official organization** of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1830 CE.

BUDDHISM – April 8. Anniversary of the historical **Buddha’s birth**.

JUDAISM – April 8. **Yom HaShoah** is held in memory of the six million Jews who died as victims of Nazi atrocities (World War II).

HINDUISM – April 11. **New Year’s Day**. Bikarami Samvat 2070 begins.

HINDUISM – April 14. Vaisakhi, **first day of the solar year**, is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest.

SIKHISM – April 14. **Vaisakhi** is important for Sikhs because on this day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Guru, removed the clerical system from Sikhism. Thus he reaffirmed the direct connection between Sikhs and the Divine. Guru Gobind Singh Ji also created the Khalsa Panth, the Fellowship of the Pure. Khalsa brothers are given the name Singh (lion), and sisters are named Kaur (lioness or princess).

HINDUISM – April 20. Ramanavami celebrates the **birthday of Rama**, the seventh incarnation of the

God Vishnu. Hindus read the Ramayana, a Hindu epic, which tells the story of Rama, during the previous eight days.

BAHA'I FAITH – April 21 to May 2. **Ridvan** commemorates 12 days that Baha'u'llah spent in the garden of Ridvan during his exile in Baghdad and also when he proclaimed himself as the one announced by the Bab. The annual elections of the local spiritual assemblies in each Baha'i community also occur at this time. On the first, ninth and twelfth days of Ridvan, work is suspended.

JAINISM –April 23. Mahavira-jayanti celebrates the **birthday of Lord Mahavira** (Great Hero), the religious seer of the 6th century BCE, whose teachings of compassion and renunciation have formed the basis of the Jain Tradition.

CHRISTIANITY –April 27. **Lazarus Saturday** (Orthodox Christians following the Julian calendar) commemorates the raising of Lazarus from the dead by Jesus (John 11:1-45).

CHRISTIANITY – April 28. **Palm Sunday** (Orthodox Christians following the Julian calendar) celebrates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

CHRISTIANITY - April 29 – May 3. **Holy Week** begins for Orthodox Christians following the Julian calendar.

ZARATHUSHTI (Zoroastrianism) – April 30 to May 4. **Ghambar Maidyozarem** celebrates the creation of sky and the harvesting of the winter crop.

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 in Canada and elsewhere.