

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

UPDATE: 3 JULY 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 July 8th @ 7:00 pm.

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.

CCSJ DIVERSITY PICNIC - Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 22, from 4 to 6:00 pm for our fall picnic in Osage. We will be providing the food. This will be an opportunity to see the Coal Museum in Osage, too. Thanks to Al Anderson for making arrangements for us to hold our first event in Osage.

JOBS WITH JUSTICE - There was a meeting on June 6 to discuss forming a North Central West Virginia Jobs for Justice group. Jobs with Justice was formed in 1987 as a response to the privatization and deregulation policies of the Reagan years. The goal is to fight for workers' rights, economic justice, and sustainable global economy. There are five tactics used: organizing and direct action, solidarity, long-term relationships, reciprocity, and winning victories. They want genuine labor-community relationships.

This is a 501 – (c) – (3) organization. There are 45 coalitions now in 24 states. They are divided into 3 tiers – solidarity coalitions (do some activities, are all-volunteer groups), leadership coalitions (have at least 1 full-time paid employee, mobilize regularly, raise money to sustain themselves), and flagship coalitions (lead bigger campaigns, i.e., on living wage). The Jobs with Justice baseline to organize a new coalition is five unions, five community groups, and a database of 100 people.

Jobs with Justice asks member groups to commit to “be there five times a year for someone else's struggle as well as their own.” The recent national campaigns have been “change Walmart, change the economy,” “caring across generations” to deal with the direct care industry (home health aides, etc.), end student debt, and POWER (Protecting our workers and ending retaliation to get more union organizing) and CIR (comprehensive immigration reform) with workers' rights. It was clear that

member organizations will not all agree on all issues, but that is okay.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 9, Thursday, July 11 at the Laborers' Union Local 814 Union Hall at 7:00 p.m. This is located at 3366 Collins Ferry Road in Morgantown. For Morgantown residents, the easiest way to find this is that it is the north end of the building that used to house Benson's Hardware and now houses Benson's Lawn System. If there are cars parked in front of the building, it can be hard to see the union sign! All are welcome to participate in this effort to organize a group of labor unions and community organizations that would serve the North Central West Virginia area.

For more information, contact Jeff Cech at jcech@iwintl.org.

STATE-WIDE NEWS

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA RALLY IN FAIRMONT JULY 9 – Thanks to Jeff Cech of Jobs with Justice for sending the media advisory about this rally from which this information is excerpted.

Thousands of miners and supporters will rally in Fairmont on Tuesday, July 9, at 10:00 a.m. at the Fairmont State University football practice field to protest the cut-off of retiree health benefits and wage and benefit cuts for active miners.

The event, sponsored by the United Mine Workers of America, is the latest in a series of protests against actions by Peabody Energy and Arch Coal that led to the inevitable bankruptcy of Patriot Coal.

Speakers will include UMWA President Cecil Roberts, UMWA Secretary-Treasurer Dan Kane, West Virginia Secretary of State Natalie Tennant, West Virginia State Treasurer John Perdue, West Virginia State Auditor Glen Gainer, AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker, and United Steelworkers President Leo Gerard.

“We’re going to stand up for the health benefits that were promised to these retirees,” said UMWA L.U. 9909 President Mike Payton, who will be attending the rally from the Loveridge mine near Fairmont. “Sometimes people forget we had to fight every step of the way to win decent conditions and good pay for miners. In case there are any mine operators out there who think we’re not willing to keep fighting, here’s a suggestion: Think again.”

More than 90 percent of the retirees whose health care is at risk never worked a single day for Patriot Coal, spending their careers at either Peabody Energy or Arch Coal. Patriot, which filed for bankruptcy protection last year, was created in 2007 by Peabody, subsequently acquired Magnum Coal, a company created by Arch and other investors. A lawsuit on behalf of UMWA members, filed in West Virginia, charges that Peabody and Arch violated the federal Employment Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) by scheming to eliminate contractually-guaranteed lifetime health care benefits for retirees. UMWA members are also working with members of Congress from both sides of the aisle to pursue legislative remedies.

Additional information about the UMWA campaign to stand up for active and retired miners is at [www.FairnessAtPatriot.org](http://www.fairnessatpatriot.org)<<http://www.fairnessatpatriot.org/>>.

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA – Fairness West Virginia sent the following email notice last week after the U.S.

Supreme Court's announcements related to marriage equality:

“In two landmark decisions today the US Supreme Court ruled in favor of equality by striking down section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and returning marriage equality to California!

“This is a victory for tens of thousands of loving and committed couples who have already legally married in states across the country. They now must be afforded the same federal rights as other legally married couples.

“Fairness West Virginia will vigilantly work to make sure that all levels of government are applying this ruling as fully as possible under existing state law

“These historic rulings do not end our work in the Mountain State. This doesn't change the shameful fact that 57,000 LGBT West Virginians still face discrimination at work and at home. It's time for West Virginia to pass our Employment and Housing Non-Discrimination Act (EHNDA)!

“Our route to achieving fair treatment and civil rights for LGBT West Virginians will follow a familiar path that many states have blazed before us. We will work month after month, year after year, changing the hearts, minds, and votes of West Virginian citizens and lawmakers. [We will do this by telling the stories of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender West Virginians.](#) [Note: If you click on this link, you will go to YouTube clips from the Fairness West Virginia Institute.]

“We will show the statewide effect of unequal civil rights under the law as well as the personal implications of when LGBT people aren't treated fairly. We will pass our Employment and Housing Non-Discrimination Act. We will continue to fight until every LGBT West Virginian who works, lives, and loves in the Mountain State is equal.

JULY DIVERSITY CALENDAR FROM ED HORVAT

North America has the world's two most 'universal nations,' with more diverse nationalities, religions, philosophies, and cultures than any other countries! Celebrate! Have a great 1st Canada! Have a great 4th USA!

Baha'i Faith – July 9. The Martyrdom of the Bab memorializes his death. Mirza Ali Muhammad was born in Iran in 1819 and was executed in 1850 at age 31. His title, “the Bab,” means “the gate.” He revealed a Holy Book, the Bayan, as well as many tablets and prayers. He foretold the coming of Baha'u'llah, the Prophet and Founder of the Baha'i Faith. A major holy day, Baha'is suspend work on this day. The occasion is often marked by a ceremony around 1 PM.

Islam – July 9 - August 8 (regional customs or moon sightings may cause a variation of these dates). Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. It is the most sacred holiday of the Muslim year and is mandated by the Qur'an (2:183). During this month, Muslims who are physically able observe a complete fast from dawn to sunset. Fasting is considered to be the third pillar or religious obligation of Islam, and provides many benefits. The fast of Ramadan encourages self-restraint, God-consciousness, compassion and collective worship. It is a time of atonement; and also commemorates the period during which Mohammed received divine revelations. Ramadan ends this year on August 19 with Eid-al-Fitr or the Festival of Fast-Breaking, which is a joyous celebration.

Judaism – July 16. Tisha B'Av, or the Ninth of the month of Av, is a major fast day commemorating the

destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in ancient times.

Buddhism – July 22. Asalha (Dhamma Day) commemorates the Buddha's first discourse called 'Turning of the Wheel of Dhamma' (or Dharma), given to the five monks at the Deer Park at Sarnath, near Varanasi, following his Enlightenment. Also commemorated on this day is Kwan Yin's 'Setting on the Path.' (Keep in mind that Buddhist calendars are as varied as the different schools and traditions that make up international Buddhism). (Theravada).

Buddhism – July 23 – October 24. Vassa (Rains Retreat). Monks and nuns begin their rainy season retreat. Vassa is the period when heavy rain stops the monks & nuns from wandering from place to place and causes them to settle down in a temple to apply themselves more strictly than usual to their religious way of life. (Theravada)

Mormon – July 24. Pioneer Day commemorates the arrival of the Latter-Day Saints pioneers to the Salt Lake Valley. Central to the doctrine of the Church is the acceptance of Jesus Christ as the literal Son of God, without whose atoning sacrifice our existence on earth would be wasted. Distinct to Latter-Day Saints is a belief in the eternal family unit that transcends death. Their sacred scripture is the Book of Mormon, used in conjunction with the King James Version of the Bible.

Shinto – July 30. Oh-harai-taisai, the Grand Purification Ceremony, has been held since ancient times to obtain purification from sins and offences committed during the first half of the lunar year. A large ring of woven grasses and reeds is placed at the entrance of the shrine premises. Walking through the ring symbolizes inner purification. Such rings are a common sight at shrines at this time of year.

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.