

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

UPDATE: 3 SEPTEMBER 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, September 9th @ 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.

CCSJ DIVERSITY PICNIC - Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 22, from 4:00 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. "The Flying Colors" will perform some wonderful music for us, so we hope to see you there.

JOBS WITH JUSTICE – The next meeting of the "organizing committee" will be Thursday, September 5th, at 7:00 pm at the LiUNA Hall (part of the old Benson's Hardware Store, 3366 Collins Ferry Road, Morgantown, WV 26505). All are welcome, and here is the proposed agenda:

Welcome and Introductions

Building Jobs with Justice: Identify Organizational Needs and Next Steps

- Communications
- Recruitment and Growth
- Mobilization/Organizing
- Internal Structure(s)

Calendar/Actions

Identify a few key events/activities to "activate" this organizing committee

Questions/Announcements

The basic minimums of a Jobs With Justice coalition are “5+5 and 100,” meaning 5 signed-on labor unions; 5 student, youth, community, or faith organizations, and a minimum of 100 people signed up on the “I’ll be there” pledge to participate in actions through the year. If your group wishes to be part of this coalition, and for more information, please contact Jeff Cech at jcech@iwintl.org.

We appreciate the fact that Jobs With Justice is publicizing our picnic on September 22nd and hope to see some of those members there.

Local news

MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next meeting of the Morgantown Human Rights Commission will be Thursday, September 19, 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/>.

City Council met in a special session on September 3 to interview candidates for a vacancy on the commission. Council members chose Frances Whiteman to replace John Hagen, who had resigned.

WVU FESTIVAL OF IDEAS STARTS WITH TALK ON HUMAN RIGHTS: Bill Richardson, former governor of New Mexico and a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, will visit WVU in conjunction with the College of Law's "Business and Human Rights: Moving Forward, Looking Back" conference, an event supported by the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights. He will be speaking at the Erickson Alumni Center on September 23rd at 7:30 pm. The lecture is free and open to the public.

WVU CELEBRATES LATINO & HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WITH THE CECILIA ROLLINS BROWN BAG FILM AND DISCUSSION SERIES – ALL ARE WELCOME TO THESE FREE EVENTS in the Gluck Theatre of the Mountainlair. Hosted by the WVU Office of Multicultural Programs and the Office of International and Global Outreach, this series of films provides opportunities to educate the University community about multiculturalism, diversity, and tolerance; and to enhance the understanding and appreciation of different cultures, their history, and traditions. Pizza will be served on a first-come, first-served basis.

Thursday, September 5, 1:30 PM: “Talk to Her”

Presented by Dr. Tania de Miguel Magro, Department of World Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics

Tuesday, September 10, 7 PM: “XXY”

Presented by Dr. Lourdes Estrada, Department of World Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics

Thursday, September 12, 11:30 AM: “Nicaragua and the First Hand Coffee Organization”

Presented by Dr. Brad Wilson, Geography

Thursday, September 12, 1:30 PM: “Che”

Presented by Dr. Jim Siekmeier, History

Tuesday, September 17, 7 PM: "Harvest of the Empire"

Presented by Dr. Victoria Garrett, Department of World Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics

Wednesday, September 18, 7 PM: "The Dupes"

Presented by Dr. Manal Al Natour, Department of World Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics

Thursday, September 19, 11:30 PM: "Eat, Pray, Love"

Presented by Marzia Martignoni, Department of World Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics

Tuesday, September 24, 7 PM: "Crime Ferpecto"

Presented by Dr. Daniel Ferreras, Department of World Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics

Thursday, September 26, 1:30 PM: "A Day without a Mexican"

Presented by Dr. Angel Tuninetti, Department of World Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics

STATE-WIDE NEWS

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA SPONSORS "SUMMER OF LOVE" SERIES: Fairness West Virginia is sponsoring what it is calling a "Summer of Love" series, featuring stories of love from the LGBT community both on the national scene and in the Mountain State." One of the featured couples is Fran Whitman and Mona Melton Zimble of Morgantown

Fairness West Virginia is also sponsoring a Fairness Film Festival this summer. According to their web site - <http://www.fairnesswv.org/faces-of-fairness-film-tour/> :

"We're coming to a town near you!

"Fairness West Virginia Institute (FWVI), the statewide organization dedicated to educating the public concerning fair treatment and civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) West Virginians, is proud to announce the first annual "Faces of Fairness" Film Tour

"This is the first time in West Virginia that so many LGBT West Virginians have participated in a multi-media project of this scale and we are thrilled to deliver such a groundbreaking film and photo exhibit directly to folks all over the state', said Casey Willits the Executive Director of Fairness West Virginia and FWVI.

"The tour highlights the short film and photography exhibit, 'Faces of Fairness' which features 14 West Virginians who identify as LGBT and speak openly about their experiences in the Mountain State. Other programming includes special guest speakers, educational information, and group discussions on the many issues that face LGBT West Virginians including second-parent adoption rights, medical benefits, hospital visitation rights, employment and housing discrimination, advocacy and political representation, transgender rights and protections, marriage equality, and bullying.

"Attendees are encouraged join the event and invite their friends on Facebook!

Fairness West Virginia Institute's 2013 Faces of Fairness Conference & Gala that is coming up on Saturday, November 2nd. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Scott Jarrell, director of Development & Corporate Outreach, at Scott@fairnesswv.org or (304) 437-2455.

NATIONAL NEWS

APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY FUND GRANT CYCLE BEGINS: The Appalachian Community Fund (ACF), which provides funds to West Virginia groups, is awarding \$152,000 this year, which means this will be a very competitive cycle. ACF gives special consideration to grassroots organizations with budgets less than \$200,000 that have limited access to traditional funding sources. ACF also examines how long a group has received continuous funding from ACF. First time applicants should review ACF's working definition of social change. Letter of Inquiry (LOI) are due September 30, 2013 at 5:00 PM EST; and the proposal deadline is November 18, 2013 at 5:00 PM EST.

In addition, ACF has a new fund available this year. The Marsha Ferber Fund will go to support work for and by teens in West Virginia. ACF will award five \$500 grants from this fund. Please contact the ACF office for information about this program.

For more information, please go to www.appalachiancommunityfund.org/.

SEPTEMBER DIVERSITY CALENDAR FROM ED HORVAT

CHRISTIANITY – September 1 (Gregorian calendar) September 13 (Julian calendar). Eastern Churches throughout the world begin their **Ecclesiastical New Year**. “Creator of the universe, setting times and seasons by Your sole authority, bless the cycle of the year of Your grace (Apolytikion).”

SIKHISM – September 1. **First Parkash** commemorates the installation of the Adi Granth (the first edition of the Sikh Scriptures) at Harimandir Sahib by the fifth Guru, Guru Arjan Dev Ji, in 1604 CE.

JAINISM – September 3-10. **Paryushana-parva** is the holiest period of the year for the ascetic Shvetambara sect. Celebrated for eight days concluding on Samvatsari, it is a time of dedication to Jain ideals through fasting, worship of the Jina, and reading the life-story of Lord Mahavira from the Kalpasutra.

JUDAISM – September 5-6. **Rosh Hashanah** – New Year’s Day—year 5774, and anniversary of the creation of the world. It begins at sundown the previous day. The first of the Ten Days of Awe (or Repentance). Reform Jews celebrate it for one day and other Jews for two days.

HINDUISM – September 9. **Ganesh Chaturthi** celebrates the **birthday of Ganesha**, God of Success and a major Hindu deity. He is invoked at the beginning of all new undertakings. He is known as the “remover of all obstacles.”

SCIENTOLOGY – September 9. **Auditor’s Day**, a day to recognize “Auditors,” Scientology ministers who help others discover their spiritual nature and heritage.

JAINISM – September 10. Samvatsari: Day of Forgiveness. The last day of Paryushana. The Shvetambara sect observes by introspection, confession and penance.

JAINISM – September 10–19. The Digambara sect celebrates **Dashalak-shani-parva** for 10 days of fasting, worship, meditation, confession, and by dedicating each day to a virtue: forgiveness, humility, honesty, purity, truthfulness, self-restraint, asceticism, study, detachment, and celibacy. On the 18th, Ananta-chaturdasi (**Festival of Ten Virtues**) is the holiest day.

ZARATHUSHTI (ZOROASTRIANISM) – September 12–16. **Ghambar Paitishem** celebrates the creation of the earth and the harvesting of the summer crop.

JUDAISM – September 14. **Yom Kippur** (Day of Atonement) is the year’s holiest day and a day of fasting. To re-

establish oneness with God, Jews ask forgiveness and forgive others. They can then confess their sins and ask God's forgiveness. Yom Kippur begins at sundown the previous day.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH (USA) September 15 to October 15. Many Hispanic Americans trace their roots to the cultures of the Americas including Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Spain, Central and South America. Latinos from all across the nation take time to reflect upon their history, customs and culture, as well as the contributions they have made to the USA.

BUDDHISM – September 19-25. **Higan-e** (to reach the other shore) starts three days before the Autumnal Equinox, and finishes three days after that day, continuing for a total of one week. It is a time to honor ancestors and to come together to chant the name of Amida Buddha.

JAINISM – September 19. On **Ksamavani**, Jains ask forgiveness of others for wrongs committed during the previous year, and likewise forgive those who caused them suffering.

JUDAISM – September 19-25. **Sukkot**, a pilgrimage feast and a time of thanksgiving, celebrates God's presence in creation and among the Jewish people. The eighth day, **Shmini Atzeret**, is a distinct festival where special prayers are offered. Sukkot begins at sundown the previous day.

EARTH-BASED SPIRITUALITIES – September 22. **Mabon**, or Harvest Home, celebrates life's encapsulation as a seed to survive the cold, barren winter; and the Harvest of the Vine, which as wine symbolizes the Goddess' power to transform youth's sweet nectar into old age, wisdom and spiritual maturity.

SHINTO – September 22. Shuki-sorei-sai, the **September equinox** memorial service is held at home altars to revere ancestors as kami. Gravesites are cleaned and purified.

JUDAISM – September 27. **Simhat Torah**, (Rejoicing of the Law) is the beginning of the synagogue's annual Torah reading cycle. Begins at sundown on the evening before.

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