

Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: 1 JANUARY 2014

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 meeting will be at Panera's on Monday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m. We will be finalizing plans for our Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration, so please join us if you wish to help with this annual event at the Metropolitan Theatre.

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 - \$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.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY CELEBRATIONS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8: Debbie Palmer is coordinating a group of people working on a larger art project for our exhibit at Arts Mon (see below) at the Wiles Hill Senior Center on Wednesday, January 8, between 9:00 and noon. Debbie will provide supplies and direction. The cost is \$11 per person.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17: Please join us for our second annual art exhibit opening and reception at Arts Monongahela, 201 High Street, Morgantown, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. This free event will feature pillowcases related to the theme of dreaming by children from Cheat Lake, Clay-Battelle, Ridgedale, and North Elementary Schools.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20: Please plan to join us at the Met Theatre at 2:00 pm for our eighth annual program to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We again appreciate the co-sponsorship of Main Street Morgantown and the financial assistance of the City of Morgantown in making this event possible.

Our theme this year is "Every Good Thing Begins with a Dream." Our program is free, family friendly, and open to all! This year, Morgantown Deputy Mayor Marti Shamberger will welcome those attending. The program will feature the Flying Colors, the West Virginia University Hip Hop Dance Team, the Diversity Line Dancers, and Cheat Lake Elementary School Choir, as well as presentations about Harriet Tubman by Sarah Little and life in Scotts Run by Al Anderson, and a solo by Janis-Rozena Peri. Janis and Barry Wendell will lead the audience in singing "We Shall Not Be Moved," and we will conclude by all singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

This year, we will be collecting items for the Scotts Run Settlement House Backpack Program. Here's a description of the program from the Settlement House web site at www.srsh.org:

"Backpack Feeding Program

"Started in 2011 at Mylan Park Elementary with 212 children, SRSB is now serving 630 children at Brookhaven, Mason-Dixon, Mylan Park and North Elementary Schools. Each summer food is

provided to the children participating in various Energy Express programs.

“Our goal is to ensure that no school child spends a weekend hungry. This program relies heavily on financial donations as well as donated foods. Executive Director Julie Harris is available to speak to local groups at anytime about the status of food insecurity and hunger in our community by calling (304) 599-5020.”

You can get a complete list of the items needed from our web site at www.ccsjwv.org, but here are some samples: granola bars, whole grain cereal bars, individual cereal boxes, fruit cups, applesauce cups, dried fruit like raisins and cranberries, individual snack packs of veggies, and Jell-o cups. Please only bring items with pop tops or individual cups, and do not bring glass items.

We will also have our new diversity-themed bumper stickers for sale at the event.

Look for posters in downtown store windows to publicize the event. Students from the Morgantown Learning Academy, Cheat Lake Elementary School, and St. Francis School will be providing the posters, and we are pleased to welcome Morgantown Learning Academy as a new partner for this event. And thanks to Nora Sheets for designing the banners you will see across High Street and at the PRT Bridge on Beechurst Avenue.

Local news

MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The Morgantown Human Rights Commission has a vacancy because Warren Harger has resigned to take a new job in Fairmont. Those interested in filling this position must be residents of the City of Morgantown, and the application deadline is January 20. If you are interested in applying, or for more information, please call the City Clerk’s Office at 304-284-7439 or visit <http://www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/>.

There were two resolutions to the West Virginia legislature on the agenda of the December meeting – one in support of marriage equality in the state and one in support of the employment and housing non-discrimination act. The latter bill has been on the legislature’s agenda in the past, and at the December forum of the League of Women Voters with area legislators, Senator Bob Beach and Delegates Amanda Pasdon, Mike Manypenny, and Barbara Evans Fleischauer indicated support for this act. Delegate Cindy Frich, the other legislator present, seemed to question the need for the act.

The next regular meeting of the commission will be Thursday, January 16, 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/>.

JOBS WITH JUSTICE UPDATE: If you are interested in subscribing to “Take5,” the e-newsletter of Jobs with Justice, please go to http://afl.salsalabs.com/o/4023/c/33/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=5986. The campaigns now seem focused on supporting fast food workers and other low-wage workers

EMPTY BOWLS 2014 TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 22: Tickets are now available for the 2014 Empty Bowls Soup and Bread Lunch to be held at the Hazel and JW Ruby Community Center at Mylan Park. The lunch will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The lunch benefits the food pantries in Monongalia County and raises awareness about food insecurity in our county. It has become “the place to be” on that day.

Tickets are available for a minimum donation of \$15 per person. Children 10 and under eat free but do not receive a ceramic bowl. Purchasing a ticket in advance reserves a bowl on the day of the event. Tickets will be sold to walk in patrons as available. Take out is available any time from 11:00 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the WOW! Factory – 3453 University Avenue, Star City; Slight Indulgence – 2300 Collins Ferry Road; Slight Indulgence – 407 High Street; The Sew Inn – 120 High Street

The Elegant Alley Cat – 358 High Street; Appalachian Gallery – 270 Walnut Street; Arts Monongalia – 201 High Street; and Classic Furniture – 1537 Sabraton Avenue.

STATE NEWS

CITY OF HUNTINGTON PASSES NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE: Fairness West Virginia reported that, on December 23, the Huntington City Council “took inspiring action to protect its LGBT citizens by approving a non-discrimination ordinance in employment and housing!” Justin Murdock, vice chair of Fairness West Virginia, reported that “I couldn’t be prouder to live in such a wonderful embracing place and I hope other municipalities in our great state will soon follow suit. All we seek is fair treatment so we can help make our communities and state better places for everyone!”

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA UPDATE: Kay Flaminio is the new executive director, starting this month.

GOVERNOR TOMBLIN REESTABLISHES MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., STATE HOLIDAY COMMISSION: In November, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin issued Executive Order No. 8-13 reestablishing the Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission. According to a press release from the governor’s office, “‘It is important we honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the principles in which he believed and struggled to bring to fruition’,” said Gov. Tomblin. “‘I truly believe this Commission’s planning, development and promotion of this holiday will help to ensure the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. continues to inspire all West Virginians’.”

“The purpose of the Commission is to develop, promote, coordinate, approve, review and make recommendations for activities to commemorate the birthday and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Commission also encourages state, local and county governmental agencies, educational institutions, civic organizations and the general public to plan activities for observance of the holiday and to provide them with assistance and information.

“The Division of Culture and History and the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs will provide general assistance, upon request. Dr. Carolyn Stuart, Executive Director of the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs has been appointed to serve as the Commission Chair. The following have also been appointed to the Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission: Secretary Kay Goodwin, Department of Education and the Arts; David Fryson, Chief Diversity Officer, West Virginia University; Julie Palas, GOHELP; Michelle Easton, Dean, University of Charleston, School of Pharmacy; Sylvia Ridgeway, State President, NAACP; The Honorable Marie Redd; Dr. Anthony Woart, Minority Health Institute, Bluefield State College; Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith, Division of Culture and History; Patricia Wilson, Associate Professor, West Virginia State University; Jacqueline Proctor, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Tourism; Reverend B.J. Roberts, Kingdom Life Fellowship Church; Dr. Hazo Carter, Professor Emeritus, West Virginia State University; Reverend Ronald English, Metropolitan Baptist Church; The Honorable Larry Starcher; and The Honorable Tod Kaufman.

“This Commission will expire on June 30, 2017, or as directed by a subsequent Executive Order.”

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN JANUARY 2014

Ed Horvat is no longer distributing this calendar, so it will no longer feature local events, but we are now getting it from The Rev. Peter Yuichi Clark, Manager of Spiritual Care Services at the UCSF Medical Center and UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital in San Francisco.

The Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony, in which old fires are extinguished and new fires are lit, and the Hopi Holy Cycle, in which the changing of the seasons and the nature of the Hopi sacred universe are celebrated, begin in January and February, but the dates of observance vary by tribe. It is also

the season of K'aliyee, the time of the north wind that blows off glaciers and icecaps that linger from the last ice age.

Wednesday, January 1 - New Year's Day

Temple Day – Buddhism-North American Buddhists attend special services in temples on this day. Feast of Mary, Mother of God; and the Naming of Jesus Christ – Christianity-Some Christians celebrate this day in honor of Jesus' mother; others celebrate this day (eight days after Jesus' birth) as the day when Jesus was presented at the Temple and officially named by his parents.

Gantan-sai (O-shōgatsu) – Shintō-This Japanese celebration of the New Year includes prayers for the renewal of hearts, good health and prosperity. The festival lasts for a week, during which time people visit one another's homes and offer gifts of good wishes for the coming year.

Saturday, January 4

Ghambar Mailyarem ends – Zoroastrianism-A celebration for the creation of animals, and a time for the equitable sharing of food with all.

Sunday, January 5

Birthday of Gurū Gobind Singh Ji – Sikhism-A celebration in honor of the tenth and final Sikh master [1666 – 1708 C.E.], who created the Brotherhood of the Pure (*Khalsa*) and who declared the scriptures (*Adi Granth*) to be the gurū for all Sikhs from that time onward. This date is used by adherents of the Nanakshahi tradition.

Monday, January 6

Epiphany – Christianity (Western and some Eastern churches)-Marking the traditional date of the visitation of the Magi to meet the infant Jesus and the end of the twelve days of Christmas, also known as *Día de los Reyes* (Day of the Kings). In Armenian Christian churches, this date is celebrated as the Feast of the Nativity. Most Western churches celebrate this feast as Epiphany, which comes from the Latin word meaning “manifestation”; in Ethiopian Orthodox churches it is known as Timkat and is celebrated on January 19th.

Feast of the Theophany – Christianity (some Eastern churches)-In some Eastern churches, this feast is associated with the baptism of Jesus by John and Jesus' first recorded miracle in the Gospels, where he changed water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. This celebration begins at sundown on the previous day. In Eastern churches using the Julian calendar, this feast occurs on January 19th.

Tuesday, January 7

Christmas – Christianity (some Eastern churches)-The celebration of Jesus' birth begins at sundown on this day, according to the Julian calendar used in some Orthodox churches.

Friday, January 10

Memorial of Línji Yìxuán – Buddhism-Anniversary of the death in 866 C.E. of the Chinese Buddhist teacher who founded what is often known as the Rinzaï sect of Zen Buddhism.

Monday, January 13

Maghi – Sikhism-Commemorating a battle in which forty Sikhs (the Forty Liberated Ones or Immortal Ones), led by a woman named Maathaa Bhaag Kaur, sacrificed themselves for their gurū.

Mawlid al-Nabi – Islam-The anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad in Mecca in ca. 570 C.E., beginning at sundown. Shi'a Muslims mark this day on January 18th.

Tuesday, January 14

Makar Sankranti – Hinduism-A festival marking the change from decrease to increase of the sun.

Seijin-no-hi – Shintō-Coming-of-Age Day, a Japanese national holiday in which families travel to shrines and announce to the gods that their children have reached adulthood. Prayers are offered for the children's wellbeing and lifelong health.

Wednesday, January 15

Tu B'Shevat – Judaism-A joyous celebration of the coming spring, including the planting of trees and the conservation of fruits native to Israel, as well as special meals where Jews eat the seven fruits of the land (wheat and barley; grapes; figs; pomegranates; olives; and honey). The festival begins at sundown.

Thursday, January 16

Mahāyāna New Year – Buddhism-This celebration falls on the first full moon day in January for Buddhists who practice in the Mahāyāna (Great Vehicle) stream. By contrast, in Theravadin countries (Thailand, Burma, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and Laos) the new year is celebrated in April, while Tibetan Buddhists generally celebrate it in March.

Saturday, January 18

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins – Christianity

Sunday, January 19

Sultán – Bahá'í-The first day of Sultán (Sovereignty), the seventeenth month of the Bahá'í year.

World Religion Day – Bahá'í-A celebration of the teachings of unity found in all religious traditions.

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day – USA national holiday-A day remembering the life and legacy of the American civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Saturday, January 25

Memorial of Hōnen Shonin – Buddhism-Anniversary of the death in 1212 C.E. of the founder of the Jōdo Shū (Pure Land) school of Mahāyāna Buddhism in Japan.

Thursday, January 30

Jashne Sadeh – Zoroastrianism-A celebration of the discovery of fire by King Hashang of the Peshdadian dynasty.

Friday, January 31

Chinese / Vietnamese / Korean New Year – Buddhism / Confucianism / Taoism-The first day after the new moon is a religious and cultural festival for Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese persons, marking the first day of the year 4712, the Year of the Horse.

Birth of Gurū Har Rai – Sikhism-A celebration of the birth of the seventh of the Sikh gurūs [1630 – 1661 C.E.], according to the Nanakshahi calendar.

If you want more information about any of these holy days, please contact UCSF Medical Center Spiritual Care Services at 415-353-1941 (Rev. Dr. Michele Shields) or 415-353-2319 (Rev. Dr. Peter Yuichi Clark)

Our thanks to the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago, the Multifaith Action Society of British Columbia (Canada), BBC's Religion Website, Peel Schools District Board (Mississauga, Ontario, Canada), the Arizona State University Provost's Office, the NCCJ of the Piedmont Triad, and www.interfaithcalendar.org

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