

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

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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: Our next meeting will be at Panera's on Patteson drive on Monday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m. We are moving to the third Monday of April because the second Monday is the first night of Passover.

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.

BUMPER STICKERS FOR SALE: CCSJ has diversity-related bumper stickers for sale. The large ones (Celebrate Diversity and Coexist) are \$3.50 each, the "Olympic circles" one is \$2.00, and the "Teach Peace" one is \$1.50, which includes postage.

If you'd like one, please send a check made payable to CCSJ to PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160, and indicate which one you'd like.

CCSJ JOINS WEST VIRGINIA WATER CRISIS ROUNDTABLE: This group organized around the January water crisis. We cannot easily attend meetings in Charleston but will let you know when letters, phone calls, or emails are needed.

LOCAL NEWS

MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The commission is still sponsoring a needs survey for residents of the City of Morgantown. According to their web site, "The Morgantown Human Rights Commission needs your assistance in identifying human rights needs for its preparation of a community action plan to help Morgantown to become a more 'inclusive city'.



"We are interested in receiving responses from residents who live within the city of Morgantown.

Your name is not needed and responses will be treated with confidentiality. A summary report will be available to the public in summer 2014.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

"If you need assistance in completing this survey form or have questions, please contact a member of the Human Rights Commission by e-mail at dspencer36@comcast.net or by phone at (304) 284-7405. Braille and large print formats are available upon request.

"If you wish to submit this survey by mail, please send to: Human Rights Commission, 389 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505."

The next regular meeting of the commission will be Thursday, April 17, 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/>.

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH: The NAACP Student Chapter "Image Awards" program will be on Thursday, April 3, at 7:00 pm in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms.

The Paul Robeson Mahalia Jackson Choir Concert will be Monday, April 21, at 7:00 pm in the Mountainlair Ballrooms.

The Carter G. Woodson Black Graduates Recognition ceremony will be on Friday, April 25th, at 7:00 pm in the Mountainlair Ballrooms.

WVU OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMS: Here are the Cecilia Rollins Brown Bag Lunch Film and Discussion Series programs for April. Unless otherwise noted, these are in the Gluck Theatre of the WVU Mountainlair:

Tuesday, April 8, 7 PM: *Young Detective Dee – Rise of the Sea Dragon*. Presented by Dr. Hannah Lin, Program Coordinator of Chinese Studies, and Professor in the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics. From legendary action director Tsui Hark comes the charming tale of Detective Dee Renjie's beginnings in the Imperial police force. His very first case, investigating reports of a sea monster terrorizing the town, reveals a sinister conspiracy of treachery and betrayal, leading to the highest reaches of the Imperial family. Detective Dee has been called the Sherlock Holmes of China.

Wednesday, April 9, 12:30-5:30 PM: Brazilian Film Festival. ***Please note: This event will take place in the Shenandoah Room, next to the Gluck Theatre.***

Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 PM: *Five Broken Cameras*. Presented by the Muslim Student Association Co-directed by Palestinian Emad Burnat and Israeli Guy Davidi, the documentary was shot almost entirely by Palestinian farmer Emad Burnat, who bought his first camera in 2005 to record the birth of his youngest son, and tells the first-hand account of protests in Bil'in, a West Bank village affected by the Israeli West Bank barrier. ***Please note: This event will take place in the in the Rhododendron Room on the 2nd floor of the WVU Mountainlair.***

Thursday, April 10, 1:30 PM: *Yankee Samurai*. Presented by author and historian Eric Saul. Learn about the second-generation Japanese Americans called Nisei, who served secretly in the Pacific during World War II. Using their knowledge of Japanese, they shortened the conflict by at least two years, saving over 1,000,000 lives. The Pentagon kept their story secret for over three decades.

Wednesday, April 16, 7 PM: *Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness*. Presented by author and historian Eric Saul. While Germany and Japan were united against American forces during World War II, one Japanese

man, Chiune Sugihara, made his own brave attempt to fend off the Nazi holocaust in Europe. Today it is estimated that more than 40,000 people were saved by Sugihara's heroic acts of humanitarianism.

Thursday, April 17, 1:30 PM: *Syrian Revolution*. Presented by Dr. Manal al Natour, Assistant Professor of Arabic Studies, Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics. Influenced by the Arab Spring and over four decades of Assad family repression, on March 15, 2011, Syrians launched peaceful pro-freedom protests against the brutal dictatorship of Bashar Assad. The protests soon turned into a nationwide nonviolent revolution for freedom, justice and dignity. *Syrian Revolution* tells their story.

Thursday, April 24, 6 PM: Hotel Rwanda. A panel discussion and film screening presented by the Muslim Student Association.

Ten years ago some of the worst atrocities in the history of mankind took place in the country of Rwanda—and in an era of high-speed communication and round the clock news, the events went almost unnoticed by the rest of the world. In only three months, one million people were brutally murdered. In the face of these unspeakable actions, inspired by his love for his family, an ordinary man summons extraordinary courage to save the lives of over a thousand helpless refugees, by granting them shelter in the hotel he manages. ***Please note: This event will take place in Room G21 in Ming Hsieh Hall.***

BARTLETT HOUSE NEEDS YOUR HELP: Morgantown's Bartlett House is looking for monetary and food donations. The Feinstein Foundation will match a portion of every donation received through April 30. The Bartlett House serves homeless people in Morgantown and the surrounding area. To make a donation, please go to <http://www.bartletthouse.org/>.

WVU LAVENDER GRADUATION CEREMONY:

About Lavender Graduation

Lavender Graduation is an inspiring and affirming ceremony that celebrates our graduating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) and ally students.

This special ceremony serves to honor LGBTQ students and allies for their strength and persistence in the face of adversity, as well as their achievements and contributions to the university. Participating students will receive a certificate and rainbow chords.

They will also have the opportunity to personally thank an individual who has helped them through their college career.

The 1st Annual Lavender Graduation at West Virginia University will be on Saturday April 26, 2014 in the Barnette Room of the Erickson Alumni Center, with a catered reception to follow in the Club Room.

The Lavender Graduation Ceremony was created in 1995 at the University of Michigan by Dr. Ronni Sanlo. Once denied the opportunity to attend the graduations of her biological children because of her sexual orientation, she came to understand the commonly felt rejection and discouragement experienced by her students.

Lavender Graduations are now held at many universities across the county. WVU is proud to now be a part of this tradition.



STATE-WIDE NEWS

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA UPDATE: The following information is from Kelly Kimble, chair of Fairness West Virginia,



**I stand with
Gay-Straight
Alliances
because
they make
our schools
SAFER for
ALL students!**

“Recently, Parkersburg South High School was the subject of national scrutiny when news outlets across the country picked up a story about a local teacher’s social media post and subsequent fallout concerning a school-sanctioned Gay-Straight Alliance club.

“As many of you know Gay-Straight Alliance clubs are student-initiated and student-organized school groups that foster understanding and community for both LGBT students and straight allies who are committed to fighting bullying based on homophobia and transphobia. GSA clubs are an essential part of building a safe and accepting school environment for all youth, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

“GSA clubs are organized across the nation and can be found in high schools across West Virginia from Capitol High School in Charleston to Cable Midland in Huntington to Parkersburg High School. The federal Equal Access Act guarantees students at public schools the right to create and run GSA clubs to improve their education environment. And research shows that GSA clubs work: LGBT students experience less harassment, show increased attendance, and feel safer at schools with GSA clubs.

“We can all agree, students are not able reach their full potential in school when they are the targets of bullying and harassment. Nine out of ten LGBT students report verbal, sexual, or physical harassment at school, according to the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN), the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students. To learn more about establishing a GSA in your area, check out these resources: <http://www.gsanetwork.org/get-involved/start-gsa> or <http://glsen.org/jumpstart>.

“Fairness West Virginia calls for all fair-minded West Virginians to stand with the brave students, teachers, administrators, and staff who participate in the GSA at Parkersburg South High School as well GSA clubs across the state—because every student in West Virginia deserves to learn in an environment that is free of harassment, bullying, and discrimination.

[“Join Our Email List!”](#)

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN APRIL 2014

FROM PETER CLARK, *UCSF MEDICAL CENTER SPIRITUAL CARE SERVICES*

April marks the season of **Mmaal**, which is when the rivers open, and of the **Eagle Dances**, when people of the Arizona Pueblo tribes dance to dramatize their communities’ relationship with the Sky-World.

Saturday, April 5

- Qingming – **Chinese traditional**—Often called Tomb Sweeping Day, it is a day to honor one’s ancestors and visit their grave sites, as well as to welcome the coming of the spring season.

Sunday, April 6

- Anniversary of the Church’s Founding – **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**

Tuesday, April 8

- Ramanavami – **Hinduism**—A nine-day celebration in honor of the birth of Rama, the seventh incarnation of the god Vishnu. Hindus read the *Ramayana*, a Hindu epic, and religious dances called Ramalila are performed to depict scenes from his life.
- Wesak – **Buddhism**—In the Mahāyāna tradition, this is the anniversary of the birth of Śakyamuni Buddha, the historical founder of Buddhism.

Wednesday, April 9

- Jalál – **Bahá’í**—The beginning of the second month in the Bahá’í calendar, “Jalál” means “glory.”

Saturday, April 12

- Lazarus Saturday – **Christianity (Eastern churches)**-A commemoration of Jesus’ miracle of raising his friend Lazarus from the dead, celebrated on the eve before Palm Sunday.

Sunday, April 13

- Palm Sunday – **Christianity (Eastern and Western churches)**-The remembrance of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem, when crowds spread palm fronds on the ground as Jesus rode into the city. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.
- Mahavira-jayanti – **Jainism**-Celebrating the birthday of Lord Mahavir (Great Hero), the 24th Tirthankara (and last of this time cycle).

Monday, April 14

- Eve of Pesach [Passover] – **Judaism (ends on April 22)**-The beginning of an eight-day festival celebrating God’s deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The story is told during a Seder meal at sundown, including readings from a book known as the Haggadah. Some Jews refrain from work on the first two and the last two days of this holiday.
- Vaisakhi – **Hinduism**-The first day of the solar year and an important harvest festival in northern India.
- Vaisakhi [or Baisakhi] – **Sikhism**-On this date in 1699 C.E., Gurū Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru, created the Khalsa Panth, the Brotherhood of the Pure. Khalsa brothers are given the name Singh (lion), and sisters are named Kaur (princess).

Tuesday, April 15

- Hanuman Jayanti – **Hinduism**-A celebration of the birth of Hanuman the monkey, the faithful servant of the god Rama.
- Theravadin New Year – **Buddhism**-The New Year festival for Theravadin Buddhists, celebrated for three days beginning on the first full moon day in April.

Wednesday, April 16

- Yaqui Deer Dance – **Native American spirituality**-A ceremony that integrates ancient rites of the Yaqui people of Arizona with the Christian Easter rituals.

Thursday, April 17

- Maundy Thursday [Holy Thursday] – **Christianity (Western churches)**-The remembrance of Jesus’ last supper with his disciples and his institution of the “love commandment” (the term “Maundy” comes from the Latin word for “commandment”) while he washed their feet as a servant.
- Eve of Great and Holy Friday – **Christianity (Eastern churches)**-At sundown Eastern churches commemorate Jesus’ death by crucifixion, followed by an observance of the Great Sabbath, in which believers remember Christ’s burial and await his resurrection on Holy Pascha, or Easter morning.

Friday, April 18

- Good Friday – **Christianity (Western and Eastern churches)**-A commemoration of the passion of Jesus of Nazareth, i.e., his death by crucifixion. At sundown some churches begin the Easter vigil either this evening or on Holy Saturday (April 19).
- Birthdays of Gurū Angad Dev and of Gurū Tegh Bahadur – **Sikhism**-Gurū Angad Dev (1504 – 1552 C.E.) was the second and Gurū Tegh Bahadur (1621 – 1675 C.E.) was the ninth of the Sikh Gurūs.

Sunday, April 20

- Easter or Holy Pascha – **Christianity (Eastern and Western churches)**-Celebrating God’s raising of Jesus of Nazareth from the dead, this day is the oldest and most central festival in the Christian year and initiates the fifty-day period culminating in Pentecost.
- Eve of Ridván – **Bahá’í (continues through Friday, May 2)**-Commemorating the twelve days that Bahá’u’lláh spent in the garden of Ridván during his exile in Baghdad and when he proclaimed himself as the one announced by the Báb, which occurred in 1863 C.E. On the first (4/21), ninth (4/29), and twelfth days (5/2) of this festival, work is suspended. The festival begins at sundown.
- Shrimad Rajchandra Dehvilay – **Jainism**-This festival marks the day of the emancipation (death) of Shrimad Rajchandra, a prominent Jain philosopher, in 1901 C.E. He was an influential spiritual guide for Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi.

Sunday, April 27

- Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Day) – **Judaism**-A day of remembrance for the six million Jews who died because of Nazi atrocities during World War II. The date chosen is the closest date on the Jewish calendar to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1943.

Monday, April 28

- Jamál – **Bahá’í**-The beginning of the third month in the Bahá’í calendar, “Jamál” means “beauty.”

Wednesday, April 30

- Ghambar Maidyozarem begins – **Zoroastrianism (continues through Sunday, May 4)**-Celebrating the creation of sky and the harvesting of the winter crops.

*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