

Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: 2 MAY 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 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 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 have added PayPal to our website so you can join or donate by credit card if you wish to do that.

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 PROMOTING TEACHING TOLERANCE MATERIALS: At our April meeting, we decided to reach out to community groups to see if they are interested in using the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance materials. These are available free of charge to educators, which can include leaders of youth groups, not just school teachers. Those using the materials could order them online at www.tolerance.org, and we would pay for the postage. If you are interested in this project, please email us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com.

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, May 15, 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 HAS NEW COMMISSION FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER EQUITY: This commission replaces the former WVU Council on Sexual Orientation. According to a WVU press release from March 20, “T. Anne Hawkins and Brian R. Jara have been selected as co-chairs of the [West Virginia University](#) Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Equity.

“The commission is committed to fostering diversity and an inclusive culture at WVU in which all Mountaineers are visible, safe, supported and have equitable access to all University programs, services and policies, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Working in collaboration with the [Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) the commission has, over the last six months, worked as an ad hoc group on various initiatives including a proposal for an LGBTQ center, enhancements to Safe Zone and a Speakers’ Bureau of LGBTQ panelists who deliver programs to classes and other interested groups.”

You can follow the commission’s work on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WVU.LGBTQcommission.

STATE-WIDE NEWS

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA UPDATE: Here’s the latest email:

“The team at Fairness West Virginia Institute is gearing up for a terrific nationwide initiative - **Give OUT Day on Thursday, May 15, 2014!**

“We cordially invite you to participate in the second annual "National Day of Giving" to engage hundreds of LGBT organizations large and small across the country and mobilize thousands of people in support of the grassroots work still needed to achieve Fairness for all LGBT people in our communities.

Last year with your help we were able to raise \$5,350 with 205 individual donors - and we not only tied for first place out of over 200 small national organizations, but we also tied for fourth place overall nationally, winning a prize of \$4,500 that brought our Give OUT Day total to \$9,850!

[Use this handy link to schedule your \\$10 \(or greater\) donation for May 15 right now, then invite your friends to do the same!](#)

“Play your part in Give OUT Day to show West Virginia's dedication to fighting for the civil rights of LGBT Mountaineers!

[Remember, you don't have to wait until May 15 - you can simply follow this link to schedule your donation today! We have until 11:59pm on May 15 to raise as many gifts as possible to help ensure Fairness for all LGBT West Virginians.](#)

“Schedule your contribution to Fairness West Virginia Institute today and join the growing wave of supporters nationwide who demand Fairness for their LGBT brothers and sisters! Thanks in

advance for helping make the second national Give OUT Day a huge success - and for showing the nation how dedicated we are to equality for all in the Mountain State!
“Always yours, Team Fairness”

January j RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN MAY 2014- Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
FROM PETER CLARK, *UCSF MEDICAL CENTER SPIRITUAL CARE SERVICES*

May and June mark the season of the **Hopi Kachina Dances**, in which Arizona Hopi celebrants represent various spirit-powers and perform ritual dances in open pueblo areas. It is also the time of **Yansa’altt**, the season of berry blossoms—anticipating the berry harvest in summer, which is essential for survival in winter.

Thursday, May 1

- Beltane [also called Beltain or May Day] – **Wicca**: Celebration of the sacred marriage of the divine forces—and the conception of the sun-child—that are the basis of all creation.
- National Day of Prayer – **Multi-faith, USA**

Friday, May 2

- Twelfth Day of Ridván – **Bahá’í** : The conclusion of the Bahá’í festival that commemorates Bahá’u’lláh’s exile in Baghdad leading up to his declaration as the one announced by the Báb in 1863 C.E.
- Birthday of Gurū Arjan Dev – **Sikhism**: Gurū Arjan Dev (1563 – 1606 C.E.) was the fifth of the Sikh Gurūs.
- Akshaya-tritiya [Immortal Third] – **Jainism**: A day celebrating when Lord Adinatha or Rishabhadeva, the traditional founder of the Jain faith and the first *tīrthankar* (a being who helps others to cross the great ocean of worldly life and achieve liberation), broke his first year-long fast by drinking juice from a sugar cane.

Sunday, May 4

- Ghambar Maidyozarem ends – **Zoroastrianism**: The end of the celebration of the creation of the sky and the harvesting of the winter crops.

Wednesday, May 14

- Visakha Puja [Buddha Day] – **Buddhism**: Celebrated on the full moon of the sixth lunar month, this is a triple commemoration of the historical Buddha’s birth, enlightenment, and death and entrance into nirvana.

Thursday, May 15

- Theravadin New Year – **Buddhism**: The New Year festival for Theravadin Buddhists, celebrated for three days beginning on the first full moon day in May.
- Restoration of the Aaronic priesthood – **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**: Marking the restoration of this order by John the Baptist and conferred upon the Prophet Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery on this date in 1829 C.E.

Saturday, May 17

6 Azamat – **Bahá'í**: The beginning of the fourth month of the Bahá'í year, 'Azamat means "grandeur."

Sunday, May 18

Lag B'Omer — **Judaism**: The 33rd day in the counting of the period between Pesach [Passover] and Shavuot [the giving of the Law]; the festival begins at sundown.

Friday, May 23

- Declaration of the Báb – **Bahá'í**: The celebration of the day in 1844 C.E. when he announced his identity as the Gate or herald of the new age in Shiraz, Persia (modern-day Iran).
- Birthday of Gurū Amar Das – **Sikhism**: Gurū Amar Das (1479 – 1574 C.E.) was the third of the Sikh Gurūs.

Saturday, May 24

- Laylat al-Isra' wa al-Mi'rāj – **Islam**: The commemoration of the Prophet Muhammad's night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem, his ascent into heaven and return on the same night, and his receipt of Allah's commandment of the five compulsory daily prayers. This celebration begins at dusk.

Monday, May 26 *Memorial Day*

Wednesday, May 28

Yom Yerushalayim – Judaism: A celebration of the city of Jerusalem.

Thursday, May 29

- Ascension Day – **Christianity (Western and Eastern churches)**: The anniversary of Jesus' ascension into heaven, celebrated forty days after Easter.
- Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh – **Bahá'í**: The anniversary of the death of the founder of the Bahá'í faith in Palestine in 1892 C.E. Adherents suspend work on this day.

If you want more information about any of these holy days, please contact 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