

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

**UPDATE: 1 SEPTEMBER 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, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. If the weather is nice, we may be meeting outside.

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 have added PayPal to our website so you can join or donate by credit card if you wish to do that.

**SEPTEMBER PROGRAM ON RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IS SEPTEMBER 9TH :** Please help us publicize this event by distributing the attached flyer. The speakers will be Rev. Georgia Morrow of Greater St. Paul AME Church, Rabbi Joe Hample of Tree of Life Congregation, Dr. Sumitra Reddy and Dr. Hota GangaRao speaking on Hinduism, Imam Sohail Chaudhry on Islam, Bradley Wilson and/or Cynthia Gorman on Baha'i, and Julie Brefczynski-Lewis on Buddhism. Belinda Nicholas has agreed to sing, and John Lozier will be playing his harp. Dr. Alex Snow, teaching assistant professor of religious studies at WVU, will moderate the discussion.

Following the program, we would like to set up an adult interfaith group to visit various congregations throughout the area, following the pattern of a youth interfaith group that has been active in Morgantown. We have already been invited to the Tree of Life Congregation for the harvest festival of Sukkot in October and to the Indian Students Association's annual "TARANG EVENT" (celebration of Diwali) on October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Mountainlair ballrooms.

We hope this will be an opportunity for all of us to learn about the rich diversity of the Morgantown area as reflected in its religious practices.

**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. You can also buy the bumper stickers on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

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:** We want 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](http://www.tolerance.org), and we would pay for the postage. If you are interested in this project, please email us at [ccsjwv@hotmail.com](mailto:ccsjwv@hotmail.com).

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2015 CELEBRATION:** Our theme for the 2015 celebration on January 19 will be related to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Please plan to join us at 2:00 pm that day for this annual free event. And please let us know if you'd like to help plan the celebration.

### LOCAL NEWS



**MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:** The next regular meeting of the commission will be Thursday, September 18th, 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 WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES SPONSORS ALTA GRACIA WORKER TOUR:** This tour publicizes human rights in the global garment industry. On September 10 at 6:00 pm, come hear from workers who sew college-logo apparel in the Dominican Republic Free Trade Zone Alta Garcia factory and learn how to support human global working conditions. This program will be in 101 Clark Hall on the WVU Downtown Campus. It is free and open to the public, with a reception to follow the program.

**WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH:** The WVU Center for Black Culture and Research is hosting a Homecoming Tailgate on October 4 at the Coca-Cola Hospitality Village at Milan Puskar Stadium. Please contact the Center for more information at [cbc.wvu.edu](http://cbc.wvu.edu).

**FROM THE WVU DIVISION OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION:** "Please join the WellWVU and other co-sponsors, including the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, September 4 from 7-9pm for Gender 101: Stigma Reduction in the Mountain Lair Ballrooms with Dr. Colt Meier.

"On Friday, September 5 from 9-11am at the Health & Education Building Multi-Purpose Room 101, Dr. Colt Meier will present Enhancing Providers' Effectiveness with Transgender Clients: Risk and Stigma Reduction. Two CEU credits are pending for Counselors, Psychologists, Social Workers, and Rehabilitation Counselors for attendance. Please RSVP to the training event by emailing [WVUCCPS@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:WVUCCPS@mail.wvu.edu) or by calling 304-293-4431."

The website for this office is [diversity.wvu.edu](http://diversity.wvu.edu).

### STATE-WIDE NEWS

**FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA SEEKS GALA SPONORS:** Patrick Folio, chair of the Fairness West Virginia Institute has distributed this information:

"Fairness West Virginia Institute cordially invites sponsors for its 2014 Conference and Gala (C&G) to be held in Charleston on Saturday, November 15! The C&G is The Conference & Gala is West Virginia's LGBT

event of the year and this year's celebratory focus will be on how to Bring It Home. From marriage equality to non-discrimination, we're almost there!

"You can get the sponsorship packet at [fairnesswv.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Fairness-West-Virginia-Institute%E2%80%99s-2014-Conference-and-Gala-Sponsorship-Packet.pdf](http://fairnesswv.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Fairness-West-Virginia-Institute%E2%80%99s-2014-Conference-and-Gala-Sponsorship-Packet.pdf). It lists all sponsorship levels, benefits, and terms, advertising rates for the program guide, and regular and student admission rates for each event, including tables for ten at the gala. Your sponsorship will support our education and advocacy on behalf of LGBT West Virginians and inspire our 5,000 supporters and 10,000 Facebook followers all across our wild and wonderful state!

"To sign up as a sponsor or get your sponsorship questions answered, please contact Travis Crum at [travis@fairnesswv.org](mailto:travis@fairnesswv.org).

"We welcome our initial sponsors and are so grateful for their leadership—please be sure to support them in every way you can!

"Last year's C&G attracted 300 people from across the state and we expect 350 this year. Our keynote speaker will be Beth Littrell, the attorney representing Lambda Legal in its lawsuit to overturn West Virginia's discriminatory ban on marriage equality.

"Beth is featured in Fairness West Virginia Institute's educational video about marriage equality which premiered at last year's gala. Faces of Fairness: A Case for Marriage profiles two of the plaintiffs in the West Virginia lawsuit, Justin Murdock and William Glavaris, and has been viewed by more than 8,000 people. That video can be viewed here and our companion video about the effects of discrimination against LGBT West Virginians can be viewed here.

"The daytime conference will take place at the Charleston Civic Center beginning at 9 am, and the evening gala will be held at the beautiful West Virginia Culture Center at the State Capitol Complex starting at 6 pm. Our preliminary schedules for both events should be complete by the end of September."

#### **RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS IN SEPTEMBER 2014**

For Native Americans, September marks the season of Genuuqwiikw, the season of mountain trails and the beginning of the fall hunt for game; the Iroquois Green Corn Ceremony, a time of renewal involving dances, fasting, offerings, and readings from the code of Handsome Lake; and the Jicarilla Apache Ghost Dance in New Mexico.

Monday, September 1

- First Parkash – Sikhism

The commemoration of the installation of the Adi Granth, the first edition of the Sikh scriptures, in the Golden Temple by Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh guru, in 1604 C.E.

Monday, September 8

- 'Izzat – Bahá'í

The beginning of the tenth month of the Bahá'í year, meaning "might."

- Nativity of the Mother of God [Theotokos] or Birth of the Blessed Virgin – Christianity

This festival celebrates the birth of Mary, the mother of Jesus of Nazareth. In Eastern Orthodox churches she is known by the honorific of Theotokos.

- Ananta-chaturdasi – Jainism

The Festival of the Ten Virtues, which is the holiest day of Dashalakshani-parva for the Digambara sect.

Tuesday, September 9

- Ksamavani – Jainism

A day of universal forgiveness, in which Jains ask forgiveness of others for wrongs committed during the previous year, and they also forgive those who have caused them suffering.

- Pitr-paksha or Mahalay Paksha – Hinduism

The beginning of a two-week period during which Hindu adherents perform shraddha rites to gratify the spirits of their deceased ancestors, including giving food or other donations as a form of charitable service.

Thursday, September 11

- Ethiopian New Year – Rastafari

A sacred day for Rastafarians because they consider Ethiopia to be their spiritual homeland, to which they aspire to return.

Friday, September 12

- Ghambar Paitishahem – Zoroastrianism [through Tuesday, September 16]

This festival celebrates the creation of the earth and the summer harvest.

Sunday, September 14

- Elevation or Exultation of the Holy Cross – Christianity

This day recognizes the Cross as a symbol of Christ's love for humankind and God's victory over death. It also marks the finding of the Holy Cross by St. Helen after it had been stolen in the 7th century C.E. Orthodox churches begin their commemoration at sundown on the preceding day. In the Ethiopian Orthodox tradition, this day is known as Mesket and is marked on September 28th.

Sunday, September 22 autumn equinox

- Shuki-sorei-sai – Shinto

A memorial service similar to the March equinox service (Shunki-sorei-sai), this day is marked by the cleaning and purification of gravesites and the reverence of ancestors as kami, or divine spirits.

- Ohigon – Buddhism

A celebration of the equinox that is of particular importance to Japanese, Korean, and Tibetan Buddhists. During this festival, the six Paramitas [virtues] are emphasized: generosity, morality, wisdom, honesty, endeavor, and patience.

- Autumn Feast – Native American spirituality

A day to honor the harvest end and the coming and going of the seasons, including prayers, songs, and the telling of tribal stories.

- Mabon [Harvest Home] – Wicca

Marking the second or continuing harvest, this festival celebrates life's encapsulation as a seed to survive the cold winter, as well as the Harvest of the Vine, which symbolizes the divine power to transform the nectar of youth into the wine of elders' wisdom and spiritual maturity.

Wednesday, September 24

- Rosh Hashanah begins – Judaism

Beginning at sundown is New Year's Day for the year 5775 and the anniversary of the creation of the world. Jews celebrate Rosh Hashanah with the blowing of the shofar (ram's horn) and apples and honey, marking it as the first of the Ten Days of Awe [or Repentance].

Thursday, September 25

- Navaratra or Navaratri Dusserha – Hinduism

The beginning of a nine-day festival of the divine mother, honoring Shiva's wife Durga and seeking her blessings. It is also observed as a celebration recalling the days of Lord Krishna. Fasting and prayer are practiced.

Saturday, September 27

- Mashí'yyat – Bahá'í

The beginning of the eleventh month of the Bahá'í year, meaning "perfection."

- Fast of Gedaliah – Judaism

A fast in memory of Gedaliah Ben Ahikam, the governor of Israel during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylonia, who was assassinated in 581 B.C.E. Following his death, the Jews who had returned to Judah fled to Egypt, thus vacating the land of a Jewish presence and completing the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem.

Sunday, September 28

- Birth of Confucius – Confucianism

The birthday of the philosopher Confucius [K'ung-tzu] in 551 B.C.E. in the Chinese state of Lu, known today as Shandong Province.

Monday, September 29

- St. Michael and All Angels – Christianity

A celebration of the archangel Michael and all angels (from the Greek angelos, “divine messenger”) mentioned in the Bible.

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. 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](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org)

To subscribe to this calendar and sync it with your Google, Outlook, or iCal calendars, visit <http://ucsfspiritcare.org> and select the “Resources” Menu