

Community Coalition for Social Justice
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UPDATE: 1 DECEMBER 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, December 8, at 7:00 p.m. We will meet in the back room.

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.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2015 CELEBRATION: Our theme for the 2015 celebration on January 19 will be "The Road to the Vote" to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and other milestones in winning the right to vote for all citizens. Please plan to join us at 2:00 pm that day for this annual free family-friendly event at the Metropolitan Theatre on High Street in Morgantown. The program will include music by The Flying Colors, Belinda Nicholas, and the Cheat Lake Elementary School Choir. Students from St. Francis School will help illustrate milestones along the long road to providing equal access to the vote for all citizens. Also, see whether you would have been able to pass a literacy test if you were an African American trying to vote in the South before the Voting Rights Act was passed.

We will again be collecting items for the Scotts Run Backpack Feeding Program that serves students in area schools who need food for the weekend. Please check our web site for a list of suggested items. Everyone attending is also encouraged to bring an item of outerwear for persons experiencing homelessness for the Coordinating Council on Homelessness to collect and distribute to those in need. The greatest need is for winter coats and boots, as well as warm gloves and hats. For further information, please contact John Sonnenday, executive director of the CCoH at ccohwv@gmail.com or 304-685-5360.

We also again thank Main Street Morgantown for co-sponsoring this event with us and assisting with publicity, as well as the City of Morgantown, which provides the funding to allow us to rent the Metropolitan Theatre. Look for the posters by St. Francis students in downtown stores to advertise the event.

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, and we would pay for the postage. If you are interested in this project, please email us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com.

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 January 19th.

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.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK! Just look for "Community Coalition for Social Justice" under "Groups" and become our friend. Thanks to Mike Sharley for being our group "leader."



LOCAL NEWS



MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: The next regular meeting of the commission will be Thursday, December 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/>.

The commission's Human Rights Needs Survey is now available in summary format at <http://www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/Final-2014-HR-Needs-Survey-Report.pdf>. The commission plans to use the information as one

foundation for an Inclusive City Plan.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FORUM DECEMBER 1: The Sisters of St. Joseph, Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center, and WVU Center for Women's and Gender Studies are co-sponsoring a forum on human trafficking at 7:00 pm in Courtroom 1 of the Monongalia County Courthouse. The goal, according to the *Dominion Post* announcement, is to provide information on what West Virginians need to know about the crime of human trafficking." Speakers will be William J. Ihlenfeld II, U.S. district attorney for northern West Virginia; Barbara Evans Fleischauer, member of the House of Delegates; Joyce Yedloskey, team coordinator for the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and Marcia Ashdown, Monongalia County prosecuting attorney. For more information, contact Delegate Fleischauer at 304-319-2423.

EMPTY BOWLS TO BE AT MORGANTOWN MALL: Empty Bowls will have a table at the Morgantown Mall Holiday Expo on Saturday, December 13th from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Sunday, December 14th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The quilt for the raffle will be on display, there will be information about Empty Bowls, and you can buy raffle tickets and tickets to the February 28, 2015, Soup and Bread Luncheon at the Mylan Park community center. Empty Bowls Monongalia raises money to support the local food pantries and community kitchens.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY UNITY BREAKFAST: The 25th annual breakfast will be held on Monday, January 19th, from 8:00 am to 10:30 am at the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms. The Martin Luther King, Jr., Achievement Award and Scholarship Award will be presented at this time.

STATE-WIDE NEWS

FAIRNESS WEST VIRGINIA IS HIRING A SPECIAL PROJECTS ASSISTANT: According to the Fairness West Virginia web site, "The Special Projects Assistant reports to the Executive Director of Fairness West Virginia, a statewide, non-profit education and advocacy organization dedicated to fair treatment and civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender West Virginians. Our mission is to ensure that LGBT people in the Mountain State can be open, honest, and safe at home, at work, and in the community.

"This full-time position is responsible for office operations, facilities management, support of finance, some outreach and development programs, and social media/website work. The Special Projects Assistant, in support of the Executive Director, develops and administers processes to optimize results produced by the Executive Director and by education, development, communications and outreach activities designed to fulfill Fairness West Virginia's mission."

The position is open until filled. For more information, please go to <http://fairnesswv.org/special-projects-assistant/>.

INTERFAITH HOLY DAYS IN DECEMBER 2014

For Native Americans of the Zuni tribe in New Mexico, December marks the time of the Shalako Kochina Ceremony. For other aboriginal tribes, this is the season when the river freezes and the land sleeps, known as Luut'aa.

Tuesday, December 2

- Maunajiyaras – Jainism

A day of fasting, silence, and meditation on the five holy beings: monks, teachers, religious leaders, Arihants or Jinas (enlightened masters), and Siddhas (liberated souls). This day is also marked as the birth anniversary of many Tirthankaras or Pathfinders.

Saturday, December 6

- Sanghamitta Day – Buddhism

Celebrating the anniversary of the arrival of King Asoka's daughter Sanghamitta, who founded an order of nuns in Sri Lanka and carried with her a branch of the original tree under which the historical Buddha found enlightenment (it still survives in the ancient capital of Anuradhapura). This festival occurs on the full moon day in December.

Sunday, December 7

- Second Sunday of Advent (peace) – Christianity (Western churches)

Monday, December 8

- Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) – Buddhism

Celebration of the time when Prince Gautama (also later known as Shakyamuni Buddha) took his place under the Bodhi tree, vowing to remain there until he attained supreme enlightenment.

- Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Catholic Christianity

A Roman Catholic holiday celebrating the belief that Mary, mother of Jesus, was preserved from original sin for her entire life.

Friday, December 12

- Feast Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe – Catholic Christianity

Commemorating the appearance of the Virgin Mary near Mexico City in 1531 C.E.

- Masá'il – Bahá'í

The beginning of the fifteenth month of the Bahá'í year; its name means "questions."

Sunday, December 14

- Third Sunday of Advent (joy) – Christianity (Western churches)

Tuesday, December 16

- Posadas Navideñas begins (through December 25) – Christianity (Western churches)

A Latino/Latina Christian feast of the Lodgings, commemorating the journey of Mary and Joseph toward Bethlehem in preparation for the birth of Jesus.

- Chanukah [Hanukkah] begins (through December 24) – Judaism

The Jewish Festival of Lights commemorates the Maccabean victory over Syrian-Greek oppressors and the recapture and rededication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165 B.C.E. Special readings and praise songs focus on liberty and freedom. The eight-candle Menorah is lit at sundown, and gifts are given.

Sunday, December 21 winter solstice

- Fourth Sunday of Advent (love) – Christianity (Western churches)
- Tohji-Taisai [Grand Ceremony of the Winter Solstice] – Shintō

This day marks the end of the sun's decline (the yin period) and the beginning of its growth (the yang period). In Japanese spirituality, the sun is expressive of Amaterasu Omikami, the sun goddess and guiding spirit of the Japanese people.

- Yule – Wicca

A celebration symbolizing the rebirth of the sun by the Goddess. A present-day Wicca event that ritually marks the shedding of the dross of the past year and contemplating one's future spiritual development.

Monday, December 22

- Winter Feast – Native American spirituality

A time when Native Americans of the Woodland tribes share food with the spirits of winter.

- Yaldā – Zoroastrianism

The "night of birth" which marks the longest night of the year, after which days begin getting longer—thus symbolizing the victory of light and goodness over dark and evil. This festival is celebrated with storytelling, poetic readings, family reunions, and feasting.

Tuesday, December 23

- Birthday of the Prophet Joseph Smith – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Commemorating the birth of Joseph Smith, Jr., in 1805 C.E. in Vermont. He translated what became known as the Book of Mormon and became the first president of the LDS Church when it was founded in 1830 in Fayette, New York.

Wednesday, December 24

- Christmas Eve – Christianity (Western and Eastern churches)

Celebration of the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. It is observed with worship, carols, candle lighting, manger scenes and festive meals.

Thursday, December 25

- Christmas Day/Feast of the Nativity – Christianity (Western and Eastern churches)

Celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, observed by prayers, exchanging of gifts, and family parties.

Friday, December 26

- St. Stephen's Day – Christianity

Remembrance of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

- Kwanzaa begins (through January 1) – African American heritage

A seven-day festival that celebrates values highly regarded by people of African American ancestry. The values include umoja (unity), kujichagulia (self-determination), ujima (collective work and responsibility), ujamaa (cooperative economics), nia (purpose), kuumba (creativity), and imani (faith). Each of these principles, collectively known as the Nguzo Saba, is represented by a red or green candle, each of which is lit on successive days using a central black candle.

- Zaratosht Diso [Anniversary of the death of the prophet Zarathustra (Zoroaster)] – Zoroastrianism

Estimates of when he lived vary from the sixth to the second millennium B.C.E., but this date memorializes the death of the prophet Zoroaster, whose hymns (gathas) are preserved in the Zoroastrian scriptures.

Monday, December 29

- Holy Innocents' Day – Christianity

A day of solemn memory for the male children of Bethlehem killed by King Herod in an attempt to destroy Jesus.

Wednesday, December 31 New Year's Eve

- Ghambar Maidyarem (through January 4) – Zoroastrianism

A celebration for the creation of animals, and a time for the equitable sharing of food with others.

- Sharaf – Bahá'í

The beginning of the sixteenth month of the Bahá'í year; its name means "honor."

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."

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