

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

UPDATE: 2 FEBRUARY 2015

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 **Tuesday February 10**, at 7:00 p.m. We are moving our meetings to the second Tuesday. We will meet in the back room. All are welcome.

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfeld 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. You can join or donate by credit card via PayPal on our web site.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY 2015 CELEBRATION: Thank you to all who came and made this a success. We had about 375 people in attendance this year. Instead of the Thomas Family singers, Boyd Bostic and his friends participated in the program at the last minute, and we appreciated their assistance. If you saw Barb Howe's letter to the editor thanking people, she apologizes for not including them. We have submitted a funding request to the Morgantown City Council for next year's event and have already reserved the Met Theatre. Please let us know if you have ideas for a theme or program participants.

MONONGALIA FRIENDS MEETING INVITES ALL TO FEBRUARY 8 MEETING: As a follow-up to our Religious Diversity Forum in September, the Monongalia Friends (Quakers) Meeting welcomes the community to participate in their Meeting for Worship on Sunday, February 8th, from 11 am – 12 noon with a light snack following the Rise of Meeting. At 11 am there will be a brief introduction to Quaker faith and practice followed by Meeting for Worship. Monongalia Friends gather in silence with no preset program and no minister leading the worship. The Divine Spirit within each of us allows us to find spiritual truth and to hold direct communion with God. "Unprogrammed" worship in the manner of Friends is a process of prayerful waiting and listening. Please join us as we patiently listen for the truth as it arises from within and as it is shared by friends who are moved to speak it. The Monongalia Friends Meetinghouse is located at 648 East Brockway Avenue (across the street from Superior Photo). For more information, you may call Keith Fullerton at (724) 579-4889.

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, February 19, 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.

WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH EVENTS:

“I AM CHANGE” PROGRAM: The Festival of Ideas and CBC&R are co-sponsoring this program on **Tuesday, February 3**, at 7:30 pm in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms. The speakers will be Nadaba Mandela, grandson of Nelson Mandela; Donisha Rita Clarie Prendergast, granddaughter of Bob Marley; and Jasmine rand, personal attorney for Trayvon Martin’s family. This event is free and open to the public.

Dionne Beverly, Thursday, February 12, 7:00 pm, WVU Rhododendron Room.

Muslim Student Association Program, Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 pm, WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms. Mr. George Green, former assistant national director of marketing of Roc-A-Fella Records and tour manager of Jay-Z will be the speaker.

Music Showcase, Thursday, February 26, 7:00 pm, WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: Congratulations to Don Spencer on receiving this year’s Martin Luther King, Jr., Achievement Award at the January 19th breakfast. CCSJ supported this nomination, as did members of the Morgantown Human Rights Commission. Don served as the first chair of the revitalized commission and is now its secretary, among his many contributions to making Morgantown and West Virginia a better place for all of us.

INTERFAITH HOLY DAYS IN FEBRUARY 2015

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. This month is also known as Buxwaks or the season of blowing needles in aboriginal spirituality, in which the wind knocks loose the foliage of frozen evergreens. It marks the approach of the new year.

Sunday, February 1

- Triodion begins – Christianity (Eastern churches)

This day marks the beginning of the ten weeks preceding Holy Pascha (Easter). The term Triodion refers to the book containing the liturgies for the worship services during this time period.

- Four Chaplains Sunday – Interfaith

A commemoration of four U.S. Army chaplains—Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Rev. George L. Fox, Fr. John P. Washington, and Rev. Clark V. Poling—who died while saving soldiers from drowning when their troop transport ship, the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, was torpedoed by a Nazi U-boat in 1943. The four chaplains are remembered for their courage and their spirit of interfaith collaboration in service to humanity.

Monday, February 2

- Presentation of Jesus in the Temple – Christianity

Commemorates Mary and Joseph’s presentation of the child Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem, as required by Mosaic law.

- Imbolc [also known as the Feast of Torches or Lughnassad] – Wicca

A celebration of beginning growth and the divine generative powers (i.e., the Goddess nurturing her young Son) from which physical and spiritual harvests will come, Imbolc is often an initiatory period.

Tuesday, February 3

- Setsunbun-sai – Shintō

A family celebration of the end of winter; beans are thrown into rooms of a house for good luck, with the shout, “Devils out, Fortune in!”

- 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.

Saturday, February 7

- Mulk – Bahá’í

Beginning of the eighteenth month of the Bahá’í year, the name “Mulk” means “dominion.”

Sunday, February 8

- Parinirvana – Buddhism

Some Mahāyāna Buddhist traditions mark this date as the anniversary of the historical Buddha’s death in ca. 486 B.C.E. and his subsequent entrance into enlightenment or Nirvana. Other Buddhist schools mark this event on February 15th (see below).

Saturday, February 14

- Valentine’s Day – Western Christianity

A celebration of love originally connected to the Roman Christian martyr who died in 269 C.E.

Sunday, February 15

- Nirvana Day – Buddhism

In northern Buddhist traditions, this day marks the anniversary of the historical Buddha’s death in ca. 486 B.C.E. and his subsequent entrance into enlightenment or Nirvana. In southern Buddhist traditions, the Buddha’s death is commemorated during Visakha.

Tuesday, February 17

- Mahashivratri – Hinduism

A night devoted to the worship of the god Shiva, whose dance creates and destroys and recreates the world; it is marked by vigils and fasting.

Wednesday, February 18

- Ash Wednesday – Christianity (Western churches)

The beginning of Lent, a forty-day period (excluding Sundays) in which Christians pray, repent, fast and reflect on Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem. It is a preparatory period for Holy Week and Easter; on this day, believers often receive an ashen cross on their foreheads to mark their repentance and mortality.

- Losar [Tibetan New Year] – Buddhism

Celebrating the beginning of the year 2142 in the Tibetan calendar.

Thursday, February 19

- 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 4713, the Year of the Sheep.

Sunday, February 22

- Cheesefare Sunday [Forgiveness Sunday] – Christianity (Eastern churches)

This feast marks the last day of eating dairy products prior to Holy Pascha (also known as Easter). The Great Fast or Great Lent begins at sundown and is marked by forty days of vegetarian fasting, intense prayer, and almsgiving in preparation for Holy Week. The following day is known as Clean Monday.

Thursday, February 26

- Ayyám-i-Há – Bahá'í [through March 1]

Starting at sundown, this festival marks the beginning of the intercalary days for festivities, gift giving, and charitable actions.

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, the Anti-Defamation League, Project Interfaith (Omaha, NE), and www.interfaithcalendar.org